Valley Voice

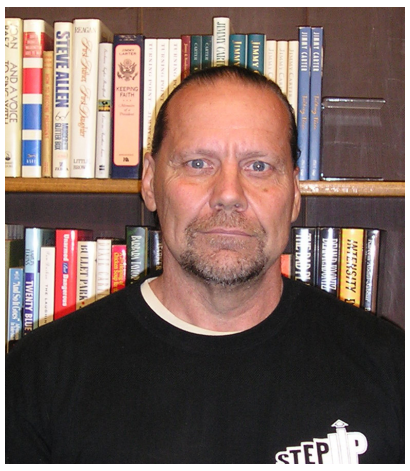
Volume XXXIV No. 5 • 6 March, 2014 www.ourvalleyvoice.com 208 W. Main St., Ste. E • Visalia, CA

Shelton Declares Candidacy for Tulare County's 5th District

STEVE PASTIS

Outspoken Porterville City Council Member Greg Shelton has declared his candidacy for Tulare County's Fifth District Supervisorial seat.

Shelton is 52, single and self-employed with real estate interests. He says he "lives a spartan existence." His involvement in local government started when he wanted to buy an abandoned railroad property adjacent to property he owned.



Greg Shelton

"I went to city hall to find a way to annex it and clean it up," Shelton said. "Unbeknownst to me, the city had designs on it for a biking trail. I was basically stonewalled and harassed by local government. I was told, 'When they were done with you, you'll beg us to take it.' That set the stage for my political career."

After battling city officials, as well as CalTrans, which initially insisted he post an exorbitant bond, Shelton got the property.

"This inspired me to run for city council," he said, adding that he was unsuccessful in his first try, placing fifth out of the nine candidates in 2008. "It was good enough that I didn't embarrass myself."

Two years later, Shelton ran for Porterville City Council again. He made his own signs, which read "No Moe Status Quo" and featured the image of Moe of the Three Stooges. "I got the most votes out of anybody in the election," he said proudly.

He had previously served on the city's parks and leisure committee for seven years and, according to Shelton, earned a reputation for diligently doing his job on a committee that had previously prided itself on having seven-minute meetings.

"I had three people resign from the committee and signify me as why they resigned," he said, adding that if he saw a proposal on a meeting agenda to get rid of a tree, "I would drive out and say, 'Why do you want to get rid of that tree?'" He said committee members would ask him why he

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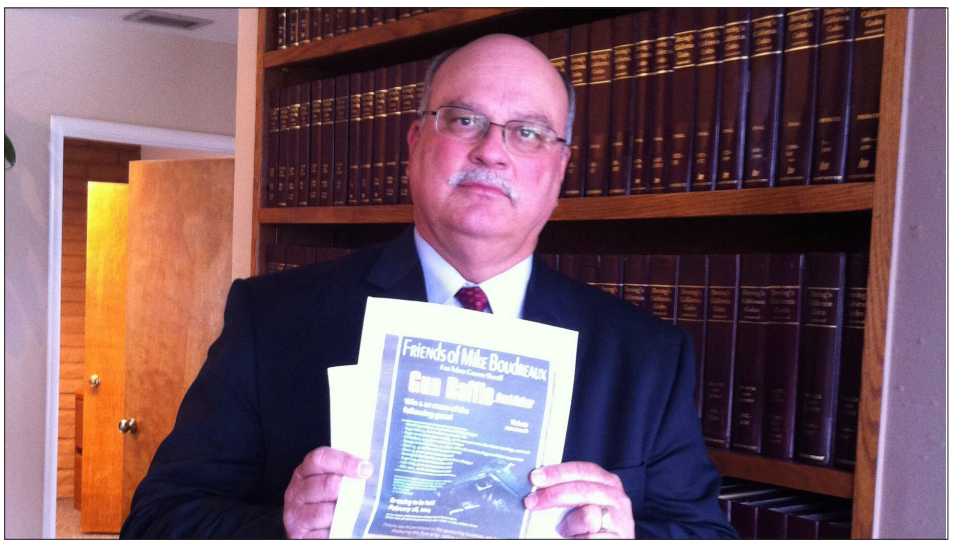

Dave Whaley, candidate for Tulare County sheriff.

Gun Raffle Fundraiser Becomes Issue in Tulare County Sheriff's Race

STEVE PASTIS

Dave Whaley, Tulare County sheriff candidate, held a press conference at the offices of the Ledford Law Corporation in Visalia on February 20 to allege that a gun raffle fundraiser for the campaign of his opponent, Sheriff Mike Boudreaux, violates the state penal code as an illegal lottery.

Whaley referred to section 320 of the California Penal Code that reads, "Every person who contrives, prepares, sets up, proposes or draws any lottery, is guilty of a misdemeanor." He later added, "If numerous people conspired to commit a misdemeanor, it raises to the level of a felony."

A February 19 press release from the Whaley campaign explained, "A raffle is an illegal 'lottery' within the meaning of that statute. After a review of filings with the Department of Justice, the Secretary of State and the California Fair Political Practices Commission, we believe the Friends of Mike Boudreaux for Sheriff 2014 is not qualified for exemption under Penal Code section 320.5. Accordingly, the proposed raffle/lottery is a crime."

"We contacted the Fair Political Practices Commission and we also contacted the Department of Justice," responded Boudreaux. "We're very confident that we operated within the scope and the intent of the law."

Boudreaux also cited the penal code.

"Although there is a difference in the interpretation, you have to make sure you read the totality of it," he said. "Make sure you don't just read the part that supports your opinion."

At his press conference, Whaley stated that his objection to the raffle "has nothing to do with firearms. This has to do with a misdemeanor violation of the penal code." He added that the penal code allows for some nonprofit organizations to hold raffles, "but my opponent's campaign does not qualify as a charity."

Even though he expressed support for the second amendment, that

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Tulare County EDC to 'Move On' Following Loss of County Funding

STEVE PASTIS

At its February 25 meeting, the Tulare County Board of Supervisors had three proposed options regarding county participation in the Tulare County Economic Development Corporation for the 2014-15 fiscal year. They could vote to not participate, vote to participate at the reduced level of $20,000, or vote to fully participate, which was done at a cost of $79,200 for the current fiscal year.

Supervisor Pete Vander Poel said that the county will always need economic development and to pull out completely would be a mistake. "How can you have a Tulare County Economic Development Corporation if the county is not part of it?" he asked, adding that the county plans on participating in EDC programs and, "I don't believe in a free lunch."

Supervisor Mike Ennis complained that representatives from the EDC never attend supervisors' meetings, noting that the new Tulare County Economic Development Department led by Michael Washam, "comes to the board all the time with good news." He added, "We should cut our funding way back and give the money to our own people."

EDC Vice Chair Craig Vejvoda spoke during public comment in defense of the county staying involved in the EDC. He argued that the EDC has been creating "lots and lots" of jobs over the last 30 years, and has been responsible for a lot of new construction in the county. "Everybody in the county has benefitted from the Tulare County EDC," he said.

Supervisor Steve Worthley said that when he became a supervisor 16 years ago, they were having the same conversation. He said that the board used to receive annual reports, and when the board would ask what benefit there was to the county, they would get no response. "There must be some return on our investment."

Worthley said he'd rather give

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City of Visalia to Enforce Stage 4 Water Conservation Ordinance

CATHERINE DOE

The Visalia City Council took major steps this week to combat the effects of the worst drought in California's history. After discussing how to respond to the drought during two February meetings, the city council took its initial vote to implement a modified Stage 4 Water Conservation Ordinance. A final vote could come as early as the March 17 meeting.

City staff recommended that the council decide between two sets of revisions to the Stage 4 Water Ordinance. Option A would restrict watering to two days per week for nine months, and one day per week for three winter months (December, January, February); Option B would restrict watering to two days per week for eight months and three days per week during the four summer months (June, July, August, September). Both options would place a limit on the duration of watering and prohibit the installation of cool season lawns and overseeding with annual ryegrass.

Option A would reduce outdoor irrigation by approximately 42%, while Option B would reduce outdoor irrigation by approximately 22%. This is consistent with the governor's call for a 20% reduction and most turf, although possibly stressed, likely would survive. Option A will come at a significant price. Watering only two days a week during the summer will likely stress lawns and result in the loss of many

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FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK

Two for the Road

Some news stories are said to have traction with the public. These are said to have "legs." This story has arms. Firearms, to be clear; eleven of them, including five handguns. Fewer than would be required to, say, annex the Crimea--but still eleven more guns than were on the street before supporters of acting sheriff Mike Boudreaux raffled them off.

On February 28, during what was billed--I kid you not--as a Bologna Feed, the raffle was held to raise funds for Boudreaux' campaign to be returned as Tulare County sheriff, a position to which he was appointed by county supervisors in October of last year. So Boudreaux is not an incumbent--he is the *acting* sheriff. Well, it's time for him to act like one.

Perhaps, if he had run before, Boudreaux would have been aware that a raffle in support of a political campaign is illegal. Perhaps, as acting sheriff, he should have already known this. Perhaps, as acting sheriff, he feels himself above the law. The optics are bad here, and he certainly is defensive about it. On his campaign's Facebook page, Boudreaux championed the raffle by declaring, "This fund raising Gun raffle is in support of our second amendment which I support and defend." Glad that's cleared up! It seems he'll be donating the proceeds to some group looking to safeguard our gun rights. Right? Not quite. In the next paragraph, he thanks raffle-goers for "contributing more money to support my candidacy."

Of course the raffle was in support of Boudreaux, not of the second amendment! And I don't have a problem with it. Or with the raffle itself. But Boudreaux' opponent in the race, Dave Whaley, does. We'll resume with him in a moment.

No--my problem is with what was raffled. It is beyond chilling, or even alarming--it is WRONG--that any branch of law enforcement, those whom we call peace officers, should in any way promote the proliferation of firearms in the public sector. Deputies, perhaps, should be better armed--but the public? Said Boudreaux, "Instead of trying to keep guns out of the hands of our citizens I will continue to support and defend the Second Amendment with my words and my actions."

Really? Do you know what the motto of our sheriff's department is? I don't, because I couldn't find one. There is, instead, a Mission Statement: "To improve the quality of life through professional services and community partnerships." What does this even mean? And wouldn't it be more reassuring, somehow, if there was at least some nod to the notion of "to protect and serve"? Maybe Boudreaux interprets "community partnership" as any departmental--or personal--effort to arm so many citizens as is possible.

To be fair, though, raffle winners--like anyone else--are required to pass a background check before claiming their prize. And let's be clear: in this case, the prize was a weapon. Five of those prizes were handguns. Not sporting rifles, with which I'd be fractionally more comfortable, but guns whose only purpose is to kill people at short range. Yet background checks only affirm one's right to own a gun, in that there is no criminal record or history of mental illness; they do not, so far as I am aware, presuppose a prospective owner's gun-handling expertise; they do not, so far as I know, assure either safe handling or storage. Background checks do not defend against theft or unforeseen access. Think Adam Lanza. Five bucks says you know who he was.

Yes, it's legal--even our right--to own firearms. That's not in dispute. But it is damned unsavory for the acting sheriff to raffle them off for any reason. Booze and cigarettes are also legal. In this parallel, a background check is analogous to being carded. How would the public react if Boudreaux raffled cases of whiskey or cartons of smokes?

Instead, our sheriff's department--like law enforcement everywhere in this gun-drunken country--should be promoting firearm buybacks. These are far from perfect, and admittedly may remove many weapons that are broken or otherwise incapable of being fired. Still, buybacks are in keeping with something akin to a remedy for a society with far too many guns at its disposal--disposal being the operative word. It's a public health issue. Shouldn't our sheriff's department support the health of its public?

Of course it should. And here was a perfect chance for Boudreaux' opponent, retired undersheriff Dave Whaley, to truly differentiate himself. He had tried to do so previously, by leveling charges of corruption at the sheriff's department, but these did not stick. And by complaining now about the illegality of the raffle--not with what was actually raffled off--Whaley has diminished himself as a candidate who is not only petty, but grasping at straws.

Unless there is a third candidate, the election for Tulare County sheriff will come down to a choice between acting sheriff Mike Boudreaux, who so far as I know would see us all armed--even our pets--and Dave Whaley, who so far as I know is capable of seeing only the small picture. We deserve better.

And speaking of pictures, the Oscars air tonight. Boudreaux and Whaley remind me of a good movie I once saw, "Two For the Road." OK--neither is Audrey Hepburn. But they both need to hit the proverbial highway.

— Joseph Oldenbourg

THE VALLEY VOICE IS YOUR NEWSPAPER

Published by The Valley Voice, LLC.

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POLITICAL FIX

CATHERINE DOE

TULARE COUNTY DEMOCRATS INTRODUCE THEIR SLATE OF CANDIDATES

The Tulare County Democratic Party (TCDP) held a meet and greet February 23 for Judge Michael Sheltzer, where several Democratic candidates running for office attended. Ruben Macareno, Chairman of the TCDP, hosted the evening. Mr. Sheltzer, (pronounced seltzer) was appointed as a Tulare County Superior Court Judge by Governor Brown. Before his appointment, he had worked at the Tulare County Public Defender's Office.

In between mingling with the candidates, Judge Sheltzer gave a short speech where he said, "I've never been in front of so many Democrats before in Tulare County." Though he is a registered Democrat, his position as a judge is non-partisan. "It's a political dance between the two," but he hopes to bring diversity to the bench by being innovative and creative in his decisions. Judge Sheltzer also encouraged everyone to not shirk their jury duty responsibilities. He said, "It's not a duty, it's a privilege. A miraculous thing happens at the end of the day of a trial by jury, the truth emerges."

About eight candidates were on hand to discuss issues with their constituents. Whereas several of the offices up for re-election are safely Republican, two of the seats promise to be an interesting battle. Assemblywoman Connie Conway's 26th District has attracted the most interest, with five strong candidates vying for her seat. Three are Democrats and two are Republicans. The three Democrats on hand were Ruben Macareno, Tulare Vice-Mayor Carlton Jones and Derik Thomas, also of Tulare.

The other hotly contested race will be for District 5 of the Tulare County Board of Supervisors. Virginia Gurrola and Greg Shelton, both of whom sit on the Porterville City Council, and Felipe Martinez, a former city council member, are challenging incumbent Mike Ennis. Ms. Gurrola and Mr. Martinez, Democrats, were in attendance. Mr. Shelton just announced his candidacy for the board of supervisors through this paper. The primary is in June, and if none of the four candidates receive more than 50% of the vote, the two top vote-getters will have a runoff in November.

GUNS ANYONE?

The Dave Whaley campaign and the media have made a big stink about Tulare County Sheriff Mike Boudreaux illegally raffling off eleven automatic and semiautomatic firearms. Raffles can only be used for fundraising by nonprofits, which Mr. Boudreaux' campaign is not. But isn't there a larger issue here? Yes, the person running for sheriff should understand fundraising laws, but more importantly, shouldn't our law enforcement be working diligently to get guns off our streets, versus handing them out?

Does anyone else have a problem with the fact that our law enforcement is raffling off guns?

To mark the anniversary of the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School last December, in which 28 people lost their lives, cities around the United States held gun buyback events.

Captain Brian Ferrante of the San Jose Police Department said, "the goal is to reduce gang violence and take more guns off the streets."

Sounds like a plan to me. Mr. Boudreaux couldn't have raffled off a weekend getaway or an ATV?

Granted, the winner of the gun raffle has to pass a background check before they take their gun home. But that background check on Mr. or Ms. Donor, who just wanted to give $20 to the campaign, doesn't verify they have a secure place to store the gun. The background check does not verify that they don't have serious mental health problems, have engaged in unreported spousal or child abuse, or currently live with a violent criminal.

What if one of the raffled guns is used in a suicide, robbery, or murder? What if it kills a child or is used in the next school shooting? What if the gun, given away in an innocent-sounding raffle, kills a cop? How would the media and Mr. Whaley feel then? Upset that the raffle did not meet the legal requirements for a fundraiser?

REP. DEVIN NUNES QUIETLY FILES

Rep. Devin Nunes quietly filed papers last week to defend his 22nd Congressional District seat. First elected in 2003, Rep. Nunes has worked his way up to be appointed on the prestigious Committee on Ways and Means and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. Rep. Nunes practically became a national household name during the sixteen-day government shutdown with his well articulated critique against those responsible, during which time he incurred the wrath of the Tea Party Patriots.

His only opponent will be Democrat Suzanne Aguilera-Marrero, also known as Sam. She was born in Porterville but now lives in Tulare. Sam decided to run for congress so she could give the constituents of the 22nd District a choice on who to vote for and a chance for change. In fact, Mike Maldonado, a local Democratic activist, submitted a video to Bill Maher's "Flip a District" program to solicit help in getting Sam elected.

According to Sam's website: "I was also a member of the California Correctional Health Care Services Division. I retired from the department as a captain in 2013. In 2007, I became the first Latina to serve as president of the Women Peace Officers' Association of California."

GOVERNOR JERRY BROWN FINALLY MAKES IT OFFICIAL

In announcing his bid for an historic fourth term, Governor Brown did so on Twitter. "Taking out papers to run for re-election," was his post, accompanied by a picture of himself at the counter of the Alameda County elections office.

According to the *Los Angeles Times*, "Brown sent a letter to supporters Thursday laying out priorities for the next four years. They include continued fiscal prudence, steps to shore up public employee pension funds and investment in water management, roads, public buildings and other infrastructure." His statement included, "By the grace of God and habits of perseverance instilled in me by my family, the Dominican nuns and the Jesuits, I am here and ready to go,"

According to Republican candidate for governor, Assemblyman Tim Donnelly, this race is "a showdown between socialism and freedom."

Comrade Brown doesn't seem worried. He went on to say, "At this stage of my life, I can say — without any hesitation — that I am prepared and excited to tackle these challenges and the many others that lay before us," he wrote. "In fact, there is nothing I would rather do."

Another Republican candidate, Neil Kashkari, is making some waves but he has no political experience and no name recognition. Another darkhorse is the mayor of Laguna Hills, Andrew Blount, who just rolled out his gubernatorial bid with the motto, "He Gets It," begging the questions: What does he get-- and where?

It would be tempting to say Mayor Blount's story has the feel of a Saturday Night Live skit. Having arrived in California with $17 in his pocket, he has since developed a phone app called Skado. Every year, Mayor Blount creates a Christmas light show synched with music and featuring something that might be a ginger bread man. But my heart melted when I found out his light display included a tour through his family holiday-decorated house where he and his wife handed out 2,000 gallons of apple cider to 100,000 people.

Cider or no, the top two candidates are Mr. Brown and Mr. Donnelly, and if Republicans are faced with a choice between someone on parole or Jerry Brown, they might just stay home. And that's bad news for Rep. David Valadao and State Senator Andy Vidak, whose districts lean Democratic in voter registration. These two at-risk Valley Republican incumbents need their party to come out in force. Which begs another, bigger question: Where is the Republican leadership in terms of dealing with Mr. Donnelly?

PROCESS HAS BEGUN TO CONVERT VISALIA TO DISTRICT ELECTIONS

The Visalia City Council took the first step at its February 18 meeting to comply with a lawsuit forcing the city to convert to by-district elections. The vote was 3-2 to hire a demographer to research how to separate Visalia into districts, with Amy Shuklian and Mayor Steve Nelsen voting no. The goal is to have the districts approved by 2015.

Before the vote, during public comment, Vincent Salinas asked the council to consider the possibility of creating seven districts instead of five, and to also consider electing a mayor at-large. He said that history was being made and everything should be on the table. In an email response, Mayor Nelsen said that, "the council in previous discussions, and blue ribbon committee discussion, is opposed to a strong mayor form of government for Visalia. The council has also stated during discussions that they are opposed to going to seven districts and have instead agreed to five. I have to say though that minds and decisions can change and may be guided by public input." Mayor Nelsen also stated that, "the demographer will present several options which will be vetted through public outreach. "

On February 6, the court ordered the City of Visalia to elect council members by district and in even years beginning in 2016. Two council members will be up for re-election in 2016 and the other three in 2018.

AND FINALLY--THE RIDICULOUS

Visalia School Board Member Charles Ulmschneider seems to be at the center of another financial squabble. His first financial peccadillo was getting paid for school board meetings which he did not attend. Last year, he missed four school board meetings and a joint meeting with the Visalia City Council. His latest kerfuffle was last month when Visalia Unified School District (VUSD) received a letter from Stockton Unified School District wanting reimbursement for those times when Mr. Ulmschneider missed work. He is currently employed by the Pacific Law Academy in Stockton as a Spanish teacher.

In speaking to the Human Resources Department at the Pacific Law Academy, it was confirmed that, when Mr. Ulmschneider leaves his teaching job to attend Visalia school board meetings, Stockton Unified has to pay a substitute teacher an entire day's salary for the two periods he misses.

When school board president Jim Qualls asked Mr. Ulmschneider why VUSD should pay Stockton Unified for his substitute teacher, he responded, "It's the law."

So to get this all straight, Mr. Ulmschneider wants to be paid when he is not there, and cost VUSD double when he is.

Here's a stupid question: If Mr. Ulschneider is working in Stockton and presumably only comes home for the VUSD meetings, why is he on the school board in the first place?

According to the *Fresno Bee*, when Mr. Qualls pressed him about where

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Tulare County District Attorney Candidates Participate in Forum

STEVE PASTIS

Tulare County District Attorney Tim Ward and his challenger, former Deputy District Attorney Ralph Kaelble, participated in a February 23 candidates' forum in Porterville, hosted by El Centro Mexicano American Latino. The event was a question-and-answer exchange between the audience and the candidates.

In response to the first question, a request that each candidate introduce himself and share his goals, Ward repeated a theme in his campaign, that his district attorney's office is no more aggressive on one type of case than another, whether it is a gang case or a rape case. "That's our job," he said. "Our focus is improving the customer service for the most vulnerable victims."

He noted his accomplishments, including his office's "98% conviction rate."

Kaelble talked about his 14 years in the D.A.'s office, where he was involved in prosecuting "every single kind of crime." He also explained why he is a candidate. "I really feel law enforcement gets in your blood. This is what I want to do."

When asked about the new $93 million courthouse in Porterville, which could be closed because of a budget shortfall, both candidates praised the facility and explained that the state provides its funding, so keeping it open is a state decision.

"The courthouse is a beautiful facility," said Kaelble. "It's great for the City of Porterville and the surrounding areas. Crimes that happen here can be tried here.

"There are rumors it's going to close," he continued. "That would be a terrible waste of money if that happens, but there is nothing the district attorney's office can do about it."

The next question was about endorsements, which led to as much excitement as the mostly cordial forum offered. Kaelble, who claims the endorsement of the Tulare County Sheriff's Department, the Tulare County Corrections Association and police officer associations in Visalia, Exeter, Lindsay and Dinuba, explained why he believes those associations support him.

"I have a history when I was at the district attorney's office that I worked closely with law enforcement, because I believe we're really all one," he said. "We need to understand what they're doing. They need to understand what we're doing."

Ward, however, sees things differently.

"I think it's a little misleading to say it's a full agency," said Ward. "It's my understanding that it's not going to a full vote. Three to five people made those decisions.

"I have the endorsement of the Tulare County Police Chiefs Association," he continued. "The leadership of law enforcement backs me because we have better communication than ever before. We made sure that every agency has an organizational chart of our office with telephone extensions. If you have a question or concern about a crime type, you know who to go to."

The candidates were asked what they are doing, or what they would do, to make business owners feel safer and keep repeat offenders off the streets.

"We're doing everything we can to work with law enforcement," said Ward, "but we're not first responders. We're not going to respond to a 911 call."

"Certain people we can send to prison, certain people we can't," said Kaelble, who talked about a person who committed a series of car burglaries, a crime that does not result in prison time, but who also committed a residential burglary, which does. He said the district attorney's office made the person an offer "and the first degree burglary charge was tossed out," keeping him from going to prison.

Responding to the "keeping business owners safe" part of the question, Kaelble said, "We need to keep not only business owners safe, but people safe in their homes."

The candidates were asked what they would do if it was determined that Sheriff Mike Boudreaux' gun raffle campaign fundraiser was a violation of the law.

"There's no official in the county who is above prosecution," said Ward.

Kaelble agreed. "If you commit a crime and I'm the district attorney, we're going to prosecute – if it's the kind of case we prosecute," he said.

The discussion then focused on what each candidate would do for the issues that concern Porterville.

Kaelble said he would target areas such as gang violence and domestic violence "all through the county, not just in Porterville. Porterville is not so unique from the entire county." He said that he would work with local legislators to make sure the new courthouse stays open. "It's really difficult for victims and witnesses to get to Visalia."

Ward talked about the auto theft task force that is a joint effort between his office and Kern County law enforcement, as well as increasing access for the underserved and remote areas of the county. "I want to make sure that they have access not just to our office but to victim advocates," he said, adding that he "sent more staff here than anyone in history."

Tim Ward and Ralph Kaelble.

The candidates were asked about the case of Kamhen Saleh (whom the district attorney's office has been prosecuting for shooting and killing two men with multiple felony convictions as they allegedly tried to run over Saleh after stealing a backpack with $44,000 in cash from his car).

"I have an ethical obligation that I cannot disclose the facts of the case," said Ward. "We filed the charges that were asked for by the Porterville Police Department when they came to us. The judge made a ruling and we challenged that ruling."

"Filing a case is very daunting," said Kaelble. "If you file a case on an individual, you can ruin his life. Just because you can file a case doesn't mean you should."

After the forum, the candidates were asked if they would participate in additional forums or debates. They both said they would participate in at least two similar events that are currently being planned.

Four days after the forum, El Centro Mexicano American Latino announced its endorsement of Kaelble on Facebook.

Visalia to Celebrate the Fourth on the Third

The Visalia Parks and Recreation Foundation has moved the Freedom Celebration to July 3 this year. The event, has been moved a day earlier to allow for a higher quality fireworks show and a return of the band Run 4 Cover as the entertainment.

Additionally, the fireworks program has been altered for safety reasons, and will be even more impressive from inside Giant Chevrolet Cadillac Mineral King Stadium while being less visible to surrounding areas.

The program, which starts at 7pm, will feature Run 4 Cover and, of course, culminate in a fireworks spectacular. The event will be free to the public but a donation of $3 a person is requested to help defray costs. Concessions will be provided by several vendors. Gates open at 6:30pm.

The foundation is actively seeking organizations willing to take over this popular community event. The scope of the event has outgrown the group's limited manpower resources.

"If your organization or company has an interest in taking over the event, please contact us," stated a foundation press release. "We will work with you to make a smooth transition and provide you with the support you need to ensure the event exists for years to come."

For more information, call 713-4599.

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Attending the ribbon-cutting ceremony are (left to right): D.E. Shaw & Co. Senior Vice President Erich Mettler, Tulare County RMA Director Jake Raper, Tulare County Administrative Officer Jean Rousseau, Tulare County Economic Development Manager Michael Washam, Tulare County Supervisor Steve Worthley, ImMODO Vice President Jon Rappe, ImMODO Senior Development Specialist Daniel Serber and ImMODO Owner/CEO Jose Luis Moya. (Photo by Steve Pastis)

ImMODO Celebrates its First Five Solar Projects in Tulare County

STAFF REPORTS

ImMODO Energy Services, one of the largest solar project developers in the San Joaquin Valley, celebrated the commissioning of its first portfolio of projects in Tulare County with a ribbon-cutting, open house and tours at its Kingsburg Solar Park facility on February 26.

ImMODO representatives were joined by Tulare County 4th District Supervisor Steve Worthley, Economic Development Manager Michael Washam and others for the ribbon-cutting.

The Kingsburg project will supply power for Pacific Gas & Electric Co. The company's four other Tulare County projects are with Southern California Edison. The five sites will produce a total of 22 megawatts of clean renewable energy in the county, enough to provide power to 5,809 homes. These projects result in a reduction in greenhouse gases that is equivalent to taking 8,084 cars off the road.

All five project sites are roughly 20 acres in size and distributed throughout Tulare County, near the communities of Kingsburg, Ivanhoe, Exeter, Lindsay and Tulare. The estimated construction value of ImMODO projects permitted in 2013 ranks higher than all other commercial developments in the Central San Joaquin Valley.

The portfolio represents five of the nine projects slated for Tulare County; the investment is roughly $40 million of ImMODO's total commitment of more than $65 million. The company is pursuing projects in Woodlake, Ducor and Orosi.

ImMODO is also acquiring land for a proposed project at 10th and Hanford-Armona in Hanford, which would be the company's first project in Kings County. The property is currently in escrow.

ImMODO has a commitment to hiring locally, which has benefitted many partners in Tulare County, most notably the nonprofit training organization, Proteus, Inc., whose staff brought their customized bus that provides rural areas in the county with information about solar energy job training and available energy services.

The February 26th event celebrated the partnership between Tulare County and ImMODO Energy Services, as well as the future of ImMODO Solar and its growing relationship within the agriculture industry.

"Tulare County is where we want to call home, said Daniel Serber, ImMODO senior development specialist. "We're just here to be good neighbors to Tulare County."

University Preparatory High School to Hold Information Nights

STAFF REPORTS

University Preparatory High School (UPHS) is accepting applications for students entering grades 9-12. Parents of students who are interested in obtaining more information about UPHS, which is located on the College of the Sequoias campus in Visalia, should attend one of the upcoming informational meetings on March 12 or March 26 at 6pm in Room 14 of the Yokut Building on the COS Visalia campus.

A joint project of the Tulare County Office of Education and COS, UPHS is a free public high school in the early college model. UPHS students attend COS college classes and accumulate a significant number of college units while they are still in high school. They learn to navigate the complexities of higher education, develop college readiness and experience challenging high school and college curricula over the course of their high school experience.

UPHS has the highest accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, as well as approval from the University of California for A-G academic classes. A small and friendly school with an excellent learning environment, UPHS accepts students of all skill levels who are highly motivated, seeking college preparation and leadership opportunities, and who want to give back to the community. At UPHS, students can enjoy ASB student activities, college/university visits, theater arts, sports, music, fine arts, dance, journalism and service learning opportunities.

For more information or for an enrollment application, visit www.tcoe.org/uphs. To contact the school, call 730-2529.

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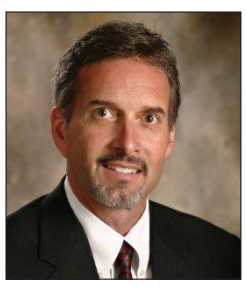

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Gun Raffle

Continued from p. 1

support was not made clear to some voters.

"We've had a lot of people call us very angry over the fact that, at face value, Dave Whaley is not a second amendment supporter," said Boudreaux. "In his defense, he is a second amendment supporter, but we also have people who come to us and say this issue is trivial."

Whaley, however, does not consider the matter trivial. "I wanted something to be done for the innocent people who were victimized by this," he said.

"I've had numerous people tell me that tπhey bought tickets just to win those firearms," Whaley said, adding that 15 ticket-buyers who approached him were people who haven't decided who they were going to vote for.

Mike Boudreaux

Whaley repeated in a telephone follow-up that Boudreaux' election committee is guilty of a misdemeanor. "Whoever sells these tickets, whoever put this thing together is guilty of a misdemeanor," he said. "I'm just quoting a law. It's in the penal code. These are misdemeanors and are listed in the penal code very clearly.

"I don't expect the average common person to know the law, but I expect law enforcement to," he added. "As law enforcement, we should be held to a higher standard than anyone else.

"I think the acting sheriff of Tulare County should know better than this," he said. "He really has contaminated his command staff. What happens the next time they're prosecuting a crime? Is the defense attorney going to bring this up?"

At the press conference, Whaley showed a copy of the gun raffle flier that shows tickets for a chance to win any of the 11 guns are $20. There was no mention of an option for a free ticket on the flier Whaley held up. He also showed a revised gun raffle flyer, which included "No purchase necessary" in small type.

"It appears that they realized they were doing it wrong and now they are doing it right," said Roy Merl Ledford III, attorney for the Whaley campaign. "I think it's good they realized they made a mistake."

Boudreaux didn't see it as a mistake.

"The attorney suggested that we take that extra step so that it's perfectly clear," said Boudreaux, explaining the revision. "Part of the rules are that you have to offer complimentary tickets."

"The tickets are offered on the same terms and conditions as the terms for which a donation is given," said Brian Hildreth, attorney for the Boudreaux campaign. "The scheme does not require any of the participants to pay for a chance to win." He added that the raffle is legal, "since there's no requirement that you have to buy a ticket.

"We fit squarely within these exemptions provided in the law and we are not running afoul of any legal authority," he said.

"It's a fundraiser and our supporters have contributed money knowing it's helping with my campaign," noted Boudreaux. "We haven't had anyone take a free ticket, though we offered it over and over again."

Both versions of the gun raffle fliers state that gun raffle winners, "must be eligible to legally possess a firearm and pass a Department of Justice background check."

At the press conference, Ledford repeated Whaley's statement that, "A political campaign committee does not qualify as a charity," but according to a state website, a political campaign may not need to qualify as a charity to conduct a raffle.

The California Department of Consumer Affairs "Rules Prohibiting Lotteries" webpage reads, "A lottery consists of three elements: (1) a prize, (2) consideration, and (3) distribution of the prize by chance. California courts have interpreted these elements broadly."

Since the gun raffle clearly offers prizes and involves chance, the only unresolved question is about "consideration," and in language which doesn't require a legal interpreter, the webpage states, "The second element of a lottery is payment of consideration by the participant in order to be eligible to win a prize. Consideration includes any exchange of value. For example, courts have found consideration present where participants each paid $.25 in exchange for a Bingo card or for small plastic rings used to play a game of chance, or where participants paid $1.00 in exchange for both a short subscription to a bulletin and a ticket for a drawing…

"Courts have used certain rules to decide whether a scheme includes consideration because it is not always clear. If a person is eligible to win a prize without purchase, there is no consideration and the contest is legal. In such a case, if some people may pay money - for example, an admission charge or a product - there is not necessarily consideration if other people may enter without such a purchase. If eligibility to win a prize is limited to those who have paid money, however, there is consideration. Alternatively, if some persons must pay in order to have a chance at a prize while others do not, there is consideration."

On February 28, the Tulare County District Attorney's office formally commented on the issue.

"The allegations as discussed in the media regarding the upcoming raffle relate to a potential misdemeanor offense," read a press statement issued by Assistant Tulare County District Attorney Anthony Fultz. "As of today, we are not aware of any local law enforcement agency that has investigated this matter, and no case has been submitted to this office. We have forwarded all the information in our possession to the Office of the Attorney General. As campaign regulations and donations are under the purview of the Fair Political Practices Commission, we have also forwarded all information to their office. The Office of the District Attorney has been proactive and has taken the appropriate measures to be prepared should a case be submitted to our office for review."

New Allegation Against Sheriff's Department Officials

At press time, we received photocopies of correspondence on the letterhead of the Law Offices of Melo and Sarsfield LLP. Copies of seven letters were left at our office, along with a copy of the original gun raffle flier, a press statement from the Tulare County District Attorney's Office, and the opinion of California Attorney General Bill Lockyer on a similar case in 1999.

We received copies of letters sent to Acting Tulare County Sheriff Mike Boudreaux, the California Department of Justice and Fair Practices Commission, Tulare County Counsel Kathleen Bales-Lange, the Tulare County Board of Supervisors and County Administrative Officer Jean Rousseau, Tulare County Human Resources Department Director Rhonda Sjostrom, Tulare County District Attorney Tim Ward, and the Tulare County Civil Grand Jury.

According to the letters, Melo and Sarsfield represent "a peace officer currently employed by the Tulare County Sheriff's Department" with a complaint about senior law enforcement members in the department who "have been and continue to participate in an illegal lottery." The arguments presented for that allegation were included in the gun raffle article in this issue.

The letters, however, also raise a new allegation, claiming the unnamed peace officer "is tired of the blatant violation of Tulare County policies prohibiting political activity while on duty."

Because of our printing schedule, we are unable to adequately – and fairly – investigate the merits of the new allegation in this issue.

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HEALTH CARE DISTRICT

REAL ESTATE PERSPECTIVE

How to Present Your Home to Prospective Buyers

WILLIAM MENKE

So, you've finally chosen a Realtor to list your home—now what? Most Realtors will guide you through the home selling process with organization and timeliness. Occasionally, though, details are overlooked. Beyond the paperwork needing to be completed, there is now a necessity to prepare your home for newfound attention. Photographs, open houses, and showings are coming soon.

For effective marketing, your home will need to be photographed for the Multiple Listing Service and other online entities and print publications. Treat photo sessions like open houses. Many sellers forget that the interiors of their homes are going to be photographed. Online photos will likely provide potential buyers with a first impression of your property—make sure they're flattering. Photographers often have unpredictable schedules, and the last mistake a seller or a Realtor wants to make is being unprepared for a photo session. I am privy to stories where both Realtors and sellers were to blame for bad photos. In one unfortunate case, I remember thinking: "Wow! Just because the seller left the kitchen sink and counters cluttered with half-eaten food and dirty dishes doesn't mean that those particular images needed to be shared with the world." Be ready!

Interior staging and exterior curb appeal need to be strategic. Cleanliness is critical. Inside, (unless you're working with a sizable budget) use the furniture and décor you already own to stage your home. Often, simply removing clutter and functionally arranging furniture can do the trick. Outside, keeping up with yard work and temporarily removing unnecessary decorations and/or controversial items is recommended. When selling your home, it may not be the best time to visually display your stance on social/political/religious issues or to bring the frame of your "project car" out from the garage to the driveway. Remember, you're trying to appeal to the widest possible audience.

Helping California save energy is commendable; however, when it comes to open houses or showings, hospitality is key—don't make potential buyers sweat or shiver. You want buyers to envision themselves living comfortably in your home. I have been greeted at open houses by profusely sweating Realtors suffering a seller's request for a specific thermostat setting. Uncomfortable buyers remember being miserable, not the great features of your home. Similarly, be sure to use any fragrances or air fresheners minimally. You don't want possible buyers nervous about what you're covering up with those five strategically placed scented candles.

Believe it or not, most people are ill-prepared to have buyers enthusiastically peruse their homes at a moment's notice. When listing your home, though, it can often seem as though this type of preparedness is standard practice. In reality, there is only so much time to devote to readying your home for sale. Have a quick plan for dealing with clutter, keep up with cleaning and yard work, and be sure to showcase your home's best features. Finally, take a break during the Realtor's events—go out for a cup of coffee or run a few errands. Buyers are not comfortable looking at homes with the owner present (and, besides, your Realtor should earn his/her commission).

William Menke is a Realtor with the Guarantee Real Estate Flex Office. He can be reached at William@Guarantee.com.

Conway, Bigelow Introduce Water Bond Plan

STAFF REPORTS

Assembly Republican Leader Connie Conway, R-Tulare, and Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee Vice Chair Frank Bigelow, R-O'Neals, have introduced a comprehensive water bond proposal. Their plan would provide competitive funding for critical water storage, groundwater, Delta restoration, water quality and drought relief projects statewide.

"California's painful drought conditions are hurting families, farmers and business owners," said Conway. "Real people are suffering through higher water rates, mandatory rationing orders and reduced water deliveries in part because the legislature has failed to act for too long. Our proposal represents a realistic and fiscally responsible approach that will provide funding for water storage, Delta restoration, drought relief and other local water needs – and at a reduced cost to taxpayers."

"The people that I represent in my district are bearing the economic brunt of the drought, and are demanding action from Sacramento to get us off this rollercoaster of water uncertainty," said Bigelow, whose district extends from Madera to South Lake Tahoe. "Solving our short- and long-term water problems are key to protecting California's economic well-being. By enacting our plan, we can more effectively plan for our state's water future and better prepare us for future droughts."

The Conway-Bigelow proposal in Assembly Bill 2043 would authorize the sale of $7.935 billion in general obligation bonds, with proceeds going to fund the following:

- $3 billion for water storage, including potential surface storage projects such as the Sites and Temperance Flat projects should they be approved
- $800 million for groundwater protection and water quality
- $1.5 billion for Delta sustainability
- $1.19 billion for regional water supply reliability
- $395 million for drought relief, wastewater treatment, and safe drinking water
- $1.05 billion for water recycling projects and advanced water treatment technology.

Conway and Bigelow noted that while the current water bond scheduled for a statewide vote in the November 2014 election was carefully negotiated, there were concerns about the plan. They said that their proposal was an effort to address these concerns and still provide funding for vital water infrastructure projects statewide. Additionally, there are no earmarks in the Conway-Bigelow proposal. This bond provides funding to be awarded on a competitive basis to eligible projects across the state.

The Conway-Bigelow proposal is co-authored by: Assembly Members Katcho Achadjian, R-San Luis Obispo; Brian Dahle, R-Bieber; Curt Hagman, R-Chino Hills; Brian Jones, R-Santee; Eric Linder, R-Corona; Mike Morrell, R-Rancho Cucamonga; Jim Patterson, R-Fresno; Donald P. Wagner, R-Irvine; and Scott Wilk, R-Santa Clarita.

Joel Nelsen, president of the Exeter-based California Citrus Mutual, contacted Conway and Bigelow to pledge his organization's support of the proposal.

"Connie could have just sat and waited for ideas to move through the legislature before engaging in the discussion, but instead she is spearheading the discussion and laying ideas out on the table in order to develop a comprehensive and bi-partisan approach to solving the state's water issues," said Nelsen.

"Reasonable people can disagree, which is to be expected when it comes to the state water plan," he continued. "But rather than condemning other ideas, in true leadership fashion, Conway has laid out a plan for discussion in order to foster compromise and create a viable solution."

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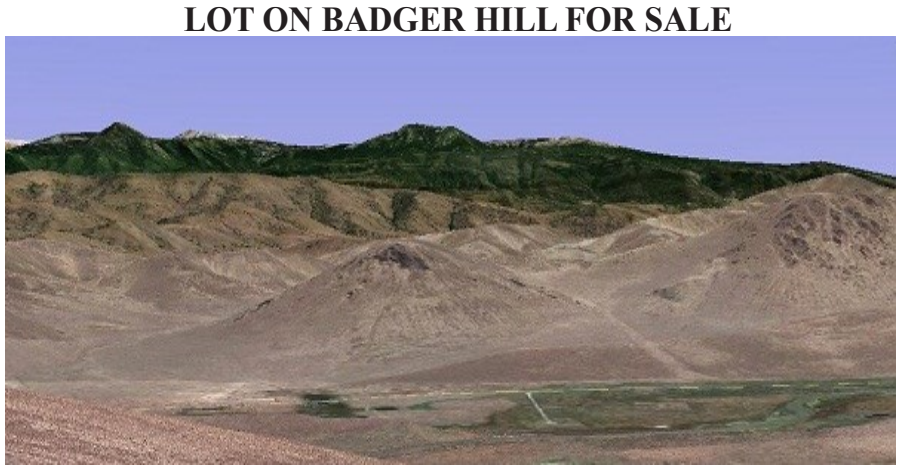

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The information in this report is deemed to be reliable, but cannot be guaranteed. This condition applies generally throughout the report and specifically to square footage calculations.

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TULARE: 133 N. "J" Street
EXETER: 420 N. Kaweah
HANFORD: 1113 N. 10th Ave • 1675 W. Lacey Blvd. (inside Hanford Mall)

Fitch Ratings Downgrades Tulare Local Health Care District

STAFF REPORTS

Fitch Ratings, which has provided independent and prospective credit ratings for 100 years, has downgraded to 'B' from 'B+' the rating on $15,230,000 series 2007 fixed rate bonds issued by the Tulare Local Health Care District, doing business as Tulare Regional Medical Center (TRMC). The bonds have been placed on Rating Watch Negative.

Tulare Regional Medical Center owns and operates a 112-bed hospital in the city of Tulare.

The downgrade to 'B' reflects a continued trend of operating losses driven by declining revenues from "persisting challenges in patient utilization." Operating losses were sustained in the fiscal year ended June 30, 2013, and through the interim period ended December 31, though somewhat improved from 2012 levels. Due to negative cash flow, TRMC violated its debt service covenant in fiscal 2012, and a "going concern" was expressed in the last two audited financial statements.

TRMC's liquidity position is very weak, resulting from negative cash flow and complications with its ongoing construction project, according to Fitch Ratings. Unrestricted cash and investments were $6.3 million on December 31, compared to $10.5 million at the end of 2012, and $24.4 million in 2010. Management indicated that a large part of the decline through the interim period was due to timing of intergovernmental transfers, and reported an unrestricted cash balance of $9.8 million at the end of February.

Turnaround Expected

In January, TRMC entered into a management agreement with HealthCare Conglomerate Associates (HCCA), an organization that was formed specifically to address operational and construction challenges at TRMC. HCCA recruited a number of industry experts in operational, financial, clinical and construction efforts, and began operating TRMC on January 13 under a short-term management contract. HCCA is projecting TRMC to break even by the end of 2014, which Fitch believes is relatively attainable.

The completion of the new bed tower that was initially scheduled for October 2012 has yet to be accomplished. The remaining cost and sources of funding for the project is unknown at this time but will likely pose a significant demand on already weak liquidity. TRMC is leveraging HCCA's expertise to renegotiate contracts and develop a recovery schedule.

The Negative Watch reflects the uncertainty around the timing and funding sources of the construction project. Management expects to have a construction completion plan in the next 60 days, which is expected to provide greater clarity on TRMC's ability to meet all its financial commitments.

TRMC posted operating losses for the second year in 2013 with an operating loss of $2.3 million, which includes annual district tax revenues of approximately $1.5 million that can be used to support operations and debt service requirements. This is significantly improved from a loss of $9.9 million in fiscal 2012, from significant expense reductions in areas such as labor and supply costs. As a result, operating margin improved to a negative 3.1% in fiscal 2013 compared to a negative 13% in fiscal 2012.

Agreement with HealthCare Conglomerate Associates

In December, the board of TRMC selected HCCA as an affiliation partner. HCCA is a management organization formed with the purpose of addressing the issues at TRMC, including financial and operational turnaround, improving physician relationships, and completing its construction project. Under a 12-month management contract, HCCA began managing TRMC in January with the goal of entering into a long-term lease within this calendar year. As the potential transaction is in its early stages and no details were provided, Fitch's analysis assumes the bonds will remain outstanding in its current form.

Under the management contract, HCCA has several executives on-site that will manage the day-to-day operations. The turnaround plan focuses on three key areas - operational/financial, clinical and construction. A chief restructuring officer from HCCA is at TRMC full-time, assuming the responsibilities of CEO, as well as several other professionals focusing on physician integration and construction management.

A thorough review of revenues and expenditures began once HCCA came onsite in January, and several initiatives are being executed to improve operating profitability. Projected growth in revenue is estimated at 5% for this calendar year, with a focus on recovering patient volumes and improving clinical documentation and revenue cycle. Targeted expense reductions total 8%, which is distributed across most expense items including labor, supplies and maintenance. Management believes these targets are achievable, and should bring TRMC back to near breakeven operations in the next 12 months.

Ongoing Construction Delays

The district has a major construction project in progress, which plans to feature a 24-bed emergency department, a new diagnostic department, a 16-bed obstetric unit, four surgery suites, and 27 new private patient rooms meeting seismic requirements. This new expansion tower was initially slated to open October 2012, but suffered disruptions due to delamination issues. Renegotiating with contractors and putting a makeup schedule in place is one of HCCA's priorities, and is expected to be complete in the next two months.

As of December 31, there was approximately $6.8 million of restricted funds remaining for the construction project, which Fitch believes is insufficient to complete the project. TRMC will likely need to procure additional funding to attain completion. The Negative Watch reflects the uncertainties around construction completion and funding, and the impact on TRMC's solvency. Fitch will evaluate the impact of the new construction plan and new debt, if any, after plans are finalized in the next two months.

Tulare County Foster Care Seeks Prospective Foster Parents

STEVE PASTIS

Tulare County Foster Care Licensing will hold an orientation for prospective foster parents at 6:30pm on March 6 and again March 20 at its 26500 S. Mooney Blvd. office.

In addition to the scheduled orientations, Tulare County Foster Care Licensing staff members now offer personal orientations in order to be more accessible to prospective foster parents.

"We have such a need for foster parents that we decided to have staff available throughout our normal office hours in order to be more accommodating and, hopefully, encourage more people to go through the orientation and training," explained Anita Ortiz of Tulare County Foster Care Licensing.

Foster Care is a program that provides shelter to children who have been removed from their homes because of abuse, neglect or abandonment, or because their parents are ill or incarcerated. The shelter may be emergency, short-term care or longer term. There are nearly 1,000 children in the county's foster care program, and there are not enough foster care homes. Of particular need are foster parents prepared to take in siblings or teenagers, and parents willing to respond to emergency placement needs.

People who are interested in becoming foster parents will need to attend an orientation meeting, and meet requirements such as being at least 18 years old, being financially able to support their own family, having no criminal record and a clear health screening, and being certified in CPR and first aid.

"Whenever possible it's best to keep children in familiar schools and communities during tough times," Ortiz said. "When we have people in all areas of the county who are willing and qualified to be foster parents, it is better for the children."

To schedule a personal orientation, or for other information, call 623-0581.

NEXT DEADLINE:
THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2014

Renovations Underway to FHCN's Porterville Health Center

STAFF REPORTS

Renovations to Family HealthCare Network's Health Center in Porterville, located at 1107 W. Poplar Ave., started on February 17. The project will be completed in three phases, with the first phase scheduled for completion by mid-May.

The overall project will take nine months to complete and will add additional exam rooms to the health center and support the organization's team-based, patient-centered health home model.

Family HealthCare Network's Health Center in Porterville

"We are very excited about moving forward with this renovation and increasing access to services for our patients," said Kerry Hydash, FHCN president and CEO.

The health center will remain open during the renovation and continue to offer services during its regular business hours, 7am to 9pm Monday-Friday, and 8am to 5pm Saturday.

Family HealthCare Network is a private nonprofit organization that operates federally qualified health centers. Its mission is to provide quality healthcare to the communities it serves. FHCN operates 17 sites, of which 13 are community health centers located in Tulare and Kings counties. FHCN is recognized by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) as a Level 3 Patient Centered Medical Home and dually recognized by The Joint Commission with its Gold Seal of Approval for Patient Quality and Safety and as a Patient Centered Primary Medical Home.

For more information on the renovation or about FHCN, contact Jon Bray at 737-4932 or jbray@fhcn.org, visit www.fhcn.org or www.Facebook.com/fhcn.org, or follow FHCN on Twitter at www.Twitter.com/FHCN.

Report Shows National Parks Tourism Adds $123 Million to Local Economy

STAFF REPORTS

A new National Park Service (NPS) report shows that nearly 1.7 million visitors to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks in 2012 spent over $123 million in communities near the park. That spending supported 1,541 jobs in the local area.

"Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks is proud to welcome visitors from across the country and around the world," said Superintendent Woody Smeck. "We are delighted to share the story of this place and the experiences it provides and to use the park as a way to introduce our visitors to this part of the country and all that it offers. National park tourism is a significant driver in the national economy – returning $10 for every $1 invested in the National Park Service – and it's a big factor in our local economy as well. We appreciate the partnership and support of our neighbors and are glad to be able to give back by helping to sustain local communities."

Smeck added that Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks intends to expand its tourism efforts by developing a marketing plan before the centennial celebration of the National Park Service in 2016, which will involve hiring a private marketing firm and working closely with chambers of commerce, agencies and other organizations.

The peer-reviewed visitor spending analysis was conducted by U.S. Geological Survey economists Catherine Cullinane Thomas and Christopher Huber, and Lynne Koontz for the National Park Service. The report shows $14.7 billion of direct spending by 283 million park visitors in communities within 60 miles of a national park. This spending supported 243,000 jobs nationally, with 201,000 jobs found in these gateway communities, and had a cumulative benefit to the U.S. economy of $26.75 billion.

According to the report, most visitor spending supports jobs in restaurants, grocery and convenience stores (39%), hotels, motels and B&Bs (27%), and other amusement and recreation (20%).

To download the report, visit www.nature.nps.gov/socialscience/economics.cfm. The report in-

National Weights and Measures Week

MARILYN KINOSHITA

Every year, March 1 – March 7 is designated as National Weights and Measures Week. We would like to take this opportunity to state the importance of our Weights and Measures Officials in Tulare County.

In Tulare County, we test more than 7,000 devices on an annual basis. These devices range from the retail motor fuel pumps you see at your local gas station to the scales you see at the checkout at your corner grocery store. Some of the devices you may not realize we test are retail water meters found at many of your retail stores, and livestock scales scattered about the countryside.

All these devices have one thing in common – the seal. When these devices are tested and found to be within tolerance, they all receive a seal. The seal represents the hard work of the weights and measures official testing these devices and protecting both the consumer and the seller. That is why the Weights and Measures officials are often called "The Third Man."

The Third Man

When you make a purchase at the food store, fill your tank with gasoline at the service station, or buy any merchandise by weight or measure, you think the transaction is only between you and the vendor. It may be a surprise to know that every such transaction includes "The Third Man," even though they are not present in person.

The Third Man is the Weights and Measures Official who checks all weighing and volume measuring devices used in sales made to the public. In Tulare County, our Third Man is a team of six. Our team is always present in spirit, protecting both buyer and seller. They are a dedicated group working quietly and tirelessly to save customers money – and to safeguard vendors' businesses. Errors in either direction, over or under, will cause someone to suffer.

The public and merchants look upon them as a friend. Because of this friendship, everyone wholeheartedly joins in celebrating National Weights and Measures Week March 1 thru 7. This is one week that the "third man" drops their anonymity and steps into the spotlight of appreciation for the job they do on behalf of the public and merchants. After all, what they stand for is just "good business."

For more on "The Third Man" please visit our website at http://agcomm.co.tulare.ca.us/ or Facebook page at www.facebook.com/TulareAgComm.

Marilyn Kinoshita is Tulare County agricultural commissioner and sealer of weights and measures.

Diabetic Drugs May Be Dangerous To Your Health

New guide sheds light on the dangers of diabetic drugs and why doctors prescribe them anyway. You could be at risk!

A free guide has just been released that reveals why current therapy may make your condition worse. If you are frustrated that your blood sugars don't budge and continue to rise despite your drugs this guide is a must have. To receive your free guide entitled "Diabetic Ignorance: How Drug Companies, The Food Industry, and some Drs. set you up for Failure" call today 1-559-627-2225 or go to www.visaliadiabetesreport.com Dr. Ruben Garcia, DC

ZEEB
Commercial Real Estate

Lot 8	Tulare Business Park	3.01	Acres	$ 555,000
Lot 9	Tulare Business Park	1.14	Acres	$ 245,155
Lot 11	Tulare Business Park	1.33	Acres	$ 350,000
Lot 13	Tulare Business Park	4.67	Acres	$ 695,000
Lot 14	Tulare Business Park	3.01	Acres	$ 555,000
Lot 15	Tulare Business Park	1.43	Acres	$ 350,000

157 Acres Industrial Zoned Land ..... $ 8,276,400
5 acres of land for ground lease Industrial zoned..... $2,500 rent

5 Acres (66 Unites Approved) Multi Family Development	$1,250,000
Approved Gas Station Site 25,000 SF	$650,000
Retail Space for Lease East Tulare Ave & Mooney	$1.85 rent
CBD Tulare 9,000 SF Office 157 South K FOR SALE	$425,000
20,000 SF on 5 Acres two buildings FOR SALE or Lease	$950,000
18,000 Sq.Ft. Building with tenants FOR SALE	$420,000
6,000 SF on 3 acres w3 Buildings for Lease	$3,500
2240 SF on south K For Lease per month	$1120
3,000 SF on south K & Paige FOR SALE	$$350,000
Auto shops 1520 Sq. Ft	$860 rent
Auto related Shop 3,040 Sq. Ft.	$1,500 rent
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Water

Continued from p. 1

lawns and result in the loss of many coolseason lawns, including landscaped areas owned by the city. Staff anticipates that there will be significant complaints from citizens and there will be a significant cost to re-landscape areas that have included a lot of cool-season turf.

Vice Mayor Warren Gubler and Council Member Bob Link both voiced reservations about passing such a severe ordinance without getting more public input. Their reluctance to proceed with approving the staff report originated from a private email received that day from someone who could not make it to the meeting.

"The community expects action," said Mayor Steve Nelsen. "They want to help but they don't know what to do. The citizens of this community expect leadership." He added that the Tulare County Board of Supervisors voted to cut off watering on all county properties.

Council Member Greg Collins said that Lindsay and Orange Cove aren't debating how many days to water their lawns: they have banned it completely. "To take one more meeting is a waste of time," he said. "This is a wake-up call for the citizens that we live in a desert and we need to modify how we deal with our lawns."

Link agreed with the severity of the situation, but said that this is a decision that the community needs to make. Gubler said that he would like to see the council do more outreach.

"We were voted into office to make decisions," responded Council Member Amy Shuklian. "Sometimes those won't be popular decisions." Mayor Nelsen agreed, saying that the city council had spent six weeks talking about this issue. "While we wait, water runs."

Referring to the email sent to the city council that day expressing opposition to the ordinance, Nelsen noted, "If these people have something to say they need to come to the meetings. The citizens need us to act. Don't abdicate your role to another committee."

Shuklian then proposed a combination of the two options put forth by the city staff, creating an Option C. This would restrict watering to one day per week for eight months, and three days per week during the four summer months. Her motion was seconded by Collins and passed 3-2, with Gubler and Link voting no.

Shuklian then moved to approve the additional Stage 4 revisions with a few modifications. Her motion passed 3-2, again with Gubler and Link opposed. The following restrictions were passed by the council.

All elements of Stage 3, of which Visalia been under since 1991, shall remain in effect in Stage 4 except that:

- Irrigation is limited to one day per week from October 1 to May 31, and three days per week from June 1 to September 30.
- Irrigation is limited to no more than 15 minutes per station up to two times per day.
- Very low-flow drip-type irrigation is exempt from the duration restrictions.
- There is an exemption for testing, adjusting or repairing of irrigation systems for no more than five minutes per station with official City of Visalia signage notifying the public of the testing. The sign would consist of a form downloaded from the city's website to be filled in with the address, date and time of the repair.
- There is an exemption for watering or irrigating shrubs and trees, or vegetation intended for human consumption, by use of an attended hand-held bucket or similar container, or an attended hand-held hose equipped with a positive shut-off nozzle or device.
- Sports fields are defined as a public or private facility improved with apparatus and/or field striping supporting a business necessity or public benefit use that provides turf areas as playing surface for regularly scheduled (at least weekly) individual and team sports, and does not include a facility on a residential property. Sports fields and public and private golf course greens and tees (not fairways) may deviate from the mandatory irrigation day and time restrictions in order to maintain play areas and accommodate event schedules by submitting to the city manager or designee an alternative watering schedule that reduces overall water use by 20 percent.
- Large landscape areas are defined as an area of vegetation at least three acres in size supporting a business necessity or public benefit use such as parks, golf courses, schools and cemeteries. Large landscape areas may deviate from the mandatory irrigation day restrictions by submitting to the city manager or designee an alternative watering schedule that reduces overall water use by more than 22 percent.
- Overseeding of lawns with annual ryegrass is prohibited. Exception is provided for maintenance of sports fields and golf course greens and tees.
- Filling or re-filling ornamental lakes or ponds is prohibited, except to the extent needed to sustain aquatic life.
- All outdoor mist cooling systems related to human comfort are prohibited.
- Swimming pools cannot be drained and refilled more than once every three years.
- Exceptions are for health and safety concerns, repairs or if the water is heavily mineralized. Draining for failure to properly maintain a pool is a violation. (Presently, pool drains require a permit issued at no charge by the Natural Resource Conservation Division, but there is no restriction on the frequency of draining in the current ordinance.)
- Stage 4 will be enforced by issuing one warning before issuing a citation. Citations will be issued without a warning for "willful and egregious" violations such as draining a pool without a permit. The city manager can make a determination of other "willful and egregious" violations.

In the event of an acute water shortage, the city council voted to create a Stage 5 to the water ordinance. Stage 5 would be mandatory compliance where all elements of Stage 4 remain in effect except that:

- No landscape irrigation is allowed except for watering or irrigating shrubs and trees, or vegetation intended for human consumption, by use of an attended hand-held bucket or similar container, or an attended hand-held hose equipped with a positive shut-off nozzle or device. All watering of lawns is prohibited.
- Sports fields and public and private golf course greens and tees may deviate from the mandatory irrigation day and time restrictions in order to maintain play areas and accommodate event schedules by submitting to the city manager or designee an alternative watering schedule that reduces overall water use by 50 percent. Irrigation of golf course fairways is prohibited.
- Swimming pool draining is prohibited except for health and safety concerns. Draining for failure to properly maintain a pool is a violation.
- Washing automobiles, trucks, trailers, boats, airplanes and other vehicles is prohibited except at commercial or fleet vehicle washing facilities.

Gubler was adamant that there should be a sunset clause for Stage 4 and Stage 5 water ordinances. Shuklian motioned that a 12-month sunset clause be added to the ordinance which passed unanimously.

Finally, the council voted to increase enforcement of the Water Conservation Ordinance by hiring a third part-time water conservation education coordinator. This person will focus on education and nighttime and weekend violations. Additionally, a reduction of the number of warnings before a citation is issued was approved in the revised Water Conservation Ordinance. The council also voted to expand the water conservation informational campaign. This outreach campaign will cost the city $25,000 and will be taken from the General Fund.

Political Fix

Continued from p. 3

responded, "This is my home of residence. I work out of the county and I have a long commute."

Mr. Ulmschneider is no stranger to controversy.

From 1999 to 2008, Mr. Ulmshneider was a Spanish teacher at Los Banos High School. In 2004, he was placed in the Peer Assistance Review program (PAR), which is designed for teachers who need assistance in improving their teaching abilities. Feeling discriminated against, he filed several civil suits against Los Banos High School, all of which were ultimately dismissed. According to one suit, Mr. Ulmschneider was in the PAR program for five years--after which he was asked to resign. In 2008, he was suspended without pay, and officially terminated in September of 2008. According to a former Los Banos School Board member, "We were very happy when he was gone."

Barry Hamlin Takes Reins at Visalia Fox Theatre

DONNA OROZCO

Barry Hamlin, a native of Porterville who has theater experience across the state, has been selected as the new managing director of the Visalia Fox Theatre. He has a lot of ideas for the Fox.

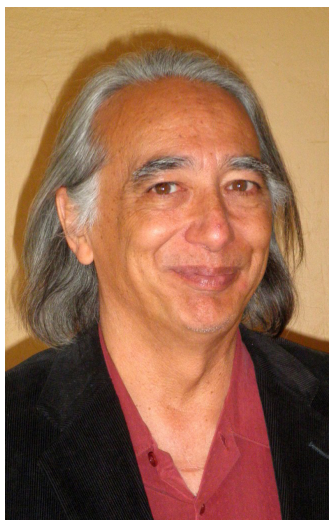
"The Finish the Fox program has its sights on several projects involving the audio and lighting systems, which will help insure the future of the theater downtown," Hamlin said. "We currently must rent systems and generators to present shows here. This is an additional cost which limits our ability to bring a lot of popular artists to Visalia."

He is also working towards allowing season ticket holders to have their own seats for the whole season, and he is dealing with attracting more volunteers and revising the theater's fee structure.

"Our volunteer support group has dissolved over the last year," Hamlin said. "We hope to reconstitute this support group and get more of our community directly involved with their theater. And we are reviewing our fee schedule and working to be more accessible to community groups who wish to perform on a professional stage."

Hamlin also wants to continue and grow the Independent Film Series that former manager Paul Fry began after Regal Theaters discontinued their series.

"We feel that there are a lot of people appreciative of independent films and see the value in the quality stories and acting found only in these films," he said.



Barry Hamlin

But it is expensive to rent and show the films. Right now, the Fox has to rent a projector each time they show a film. The Visalia Heritage Society has given them a grant to buy a quality used LCD projector that will be on hand for the March film. The current plan is to show a film once a month, usually on the third Thursday.

Hamlin was raised in Porterville, where he was involved in the public schools' music program and where, he says, his love of music and the arts flourished. He was a music major at Bakersfield College and eventually transferred to Fresno State, where he became involved with event production. While at Fresno State, he worked with local production companies and was able to do some short tours with Donnie and Marie Osmond, as well as with Frank Sinatra.

He relocated to southern California and accepted a position at the Orange County Performing Arts Center as a technical lead. While there, he worked with Rudolf Nureyev, mounting the Paris Opera Ballet's presentation of "Cinderella," as well as Mikhail Baryshnikov's world premiere of "Swan Lake." The center also presented national tours of many Broadway plays including "Cats," "Rent," "Cabaret," "The Sound of Music" and "Phantom of the Opera."

He left OCPAC to open the Poway Center for the Performing Arts as its technical director. While he was there, the center presented Johnny Cash, Mel Torme, the Smothers Brothers and many others.

In 2000, he moved up the coast to Arroyo Grande and assumed the responsibility of completing and opening the Clark Center for the Performing Arts. He helped the center develop outreach programs at no cost to the students of the area. The center also hosted national acts like Colbie Caillat, Rhonda Vincent and Peter Yarrow.

Hamlin recently returned to the area and lives in Three Rivers.

Kaweah Delta to Host Sleep Disorders Support Group on March 17

STAFF REPORTS

Tulare County residents who are having trouble sleeping or know someone who has a sleep disorder are invited to attend Kaweah Delta's A.W.A.K.E support group on Monday, March 17, in Visalia.

The free support group is called A.W.A.K.E. because it helps people stay alert, well and keep energetic.

The topic will be "Understanding Your CPAP Supplies," and will take place from 5:30-7pm inside the Acequia Wing Conference Room (first floor of Kaweah Delta Medical Center) at 126 S. Floral St. (at Acequia Avenue).

Approximately 40 million people in the U.S. are diagnosed with sleep disorders each year. The long-term effects of a sleep disorder can be serious and include heart attack, diabetes, stroke, high blood pressure and more.

Kaweah Delta's Sleep Disorders Center is an eight-room center staffed with board-registered technologists who conduct sleep studies in a home-like setting. All tests are interpreted by physicians who are board certified in sleep medicine.

Established in 1963, Kaweah Delta Health Care District is one of the area's most progressive healthcare providers. It is the only facility with Magnet status in the San Joaquin Valley serving children and adults and remains the only level III trauma center serving Tulare and Kings counties. The district offers a comprehensive scope of services including everything from a well-respected pediatric hospitalist program to nationally recognized orthopedic and cancer programs.

For more information, visit www.kaweahdelta.org or follow Kaweah Delta on Twitter or Facebook.

Established coffee business located on Tulare Avenue in Tulare. High visibility with high school, retailers and offices in immediate proximity.
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News in Brief...

TULARE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER RECEIVES $2M GIFT

After covering Tulare Regional Medical Center's bad news elsewhere in this issue, let's share their good news… Manuel and Katye Mancebo, who own and operate K&M Paint and Truck Repair in Tulare, have made a $2 million pledge to the medical center's new Tulare Wellness Foundation. The couple formerly owned and operated Kings County Truck Lines, a company founded by Manuel's father, a 1940 immigrant from the Portuguese Azores.

ELECTION NOMINATION PERIOD ENDS FRIDAY

Tulare County Registrar of Voters Rita A. Woodard reminds all Tulare County residents that the Primary Election will be held on June 3.

Friday, March 7, at 5pm is the end of the nomination period for any candidates who want to file for office. If the incumbent for an office does not file by that deadline, the nomination period will be extended for any person – other than the incumbent – until 5pm on Wednesday, March 12.

Tulare County Registrar of Voters is located in Government Plaza (across from Mooney Grove Park), 5951 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia. For more information, call 624-7300 or visit www.tularecoelections.org.

USDA CLOSES CENTRAL VALLEY MEAT CO.

Federal inspectors have shut down Hanford-based Central Valley Meat Co. because its slaughterhouse was determined to be unsanitary. The company supplies beef for the National School Lunch Program, as well as for the Philly Steak and Cheese varieties of Hot Pockets. Nestlé USA has issued a recall.

"The plant's suspension will be lifted once we receive adequate assurances of corrective action," said the USDA in a statement.

If you have a questionable Hot Pocket in your freezer, you can call the company's consumer services at 800-392-4057.

KAWEAH DELTA OFFERS FREE RISK ASSESSMENTS

Kaweah Delta Health Care District is giving people an opportunity to take one of 15 free health risk assessments to identify factors that put them at risk for health conditions such as diabetes, stroke, cancer, heart attacks and more. The five-to-seven minute health risk assessments are available by clicking on "Screenings and Assessments" at KaweahDelta.org. Everyone who completes one by Friday, April 4, will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a Kindle Fire.

Those who are deemed at highest-risk for a health condition can choose to take advantage of a free one-on-one consultation with a Kaweah Delta staff member. Completing an assessment could help save a person's life as people are often unaware of factors that put them at risk for diabetes, stroke, cancer, or heart disease or heart attacks. Following the survey, users can opt-in to receive newsletters with health tips.

VISALIA CHAMBER SEEKS NOMINATIONS FOR 2014 AWARDS

Each year, the Visalia Chamber of Commerce honors those business and individuals who consistently go above and beyond to support our community. The chamber is currently seeking nominations for the following awards: Man of the Year; Woman of the Year; Small, Medium and Large, Business of the Year; Agri-Business of the Year; and Non-Profit and CFO of the year.

The community is encouraged to nominate businesses or individuals who have exemplified outstanding service and commitment to Visalia. If you know of such an individual or business and you wish to nominate them, e-mail nicola@visaliachamber.org or call the chamber at 734-5876. Nominations must be received by March 31. Winners will be announced at the 61st Annual Awards Celebration to take place June 19th at the Visalia Convention Center.

MATHENY RESIDENTS TO HELP SET TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIES

Residents of Matheny Tract are encouraged to participate in the second community meeting to develop a transportation infrastructure plan. The meeting will be held from 3:30-5pm on Saturday, March 8, at Palo Verde School, 9637 Ave. 196 in Tulare.

Consultant Omni-Means, as well as staff of Tulare County Resource Management Agency, will outline concerns that residents identified during the first community meeting in February. Concerns included walkability and bikeability, transit, streetscape and drivability. Residents will have an opportunity to develop a prioritized list of projects.

A third meeting will be held in late April. With the transportation infrastructure plan in hand, Tulare County RMA will be able to work toward securing grant funding to make improvements in the small, unincorporated community.

Refreshments and activities for children will be provided. For more information, contact Gary Mills at Omni-Means at 734-5895 or gmills@omnimeans.com.

PENDING HOME SALES REVERSE TWO-MONTH DECLINE

With the statewide housing inventory slowly improving, California pending home sales picked up steam in January and reversed a two-month decline, but pending sales were still down from a year ago, according to the California Association of Realtors (C.A.R.).

"We're starting to see a turning point in the market as we approach the spring homebuying season," said C.A.R. President Kevin Brown. "Home sellers realize that home prices are holding steady and are gearing up for the upcoming season by listing their homes for sale, while prospective home buyers are getting more comfortable with stabilizing home prices and interest rates and are entering the market."

Single-family distressed homes in Tulare County declined as a percentage of total sales from 26% in December to 20% in January. In January 2012, the percentage was up to 41%. Meanwhile, single-family distressed homes in Kings County increased as a percentage of total sales from 28% in December to 45% in January. In January 2012, the percentage was 38%.

CALIFORNIA DAIRIES ADDS NEW EVAPORATOR

California Dairies, Inc. (CDI), the largest dairy processing cooperative in California, has announced it will increase its processing capacity with the addition of a third evaporator at its Visalia plant. Committed to becoming the leading source of dairy nutrition for a healthy world, the project will align CDI's assets and capabilities to produce the value-added milk powders the world market demands.

"Management continues to look for new ways to add value to its member-owners' milk through the expansion and improvement of its assets and product offerings," said Andrei Mikhalevsky, CEO. "The addition of a new evaporator combines increased capacity and improved capabilities to offer CDI the flexibility to adjust product portfolios as market demands shift, which will grow market share and maximize member-owner profits."

The largest capital project undertaken since the Visalia plant was built in 2007, the new evaporator will increase CDI's ability to meet tight export specifications on value-added milk powders. This will allow CDI to focus on expanding relationships with its international customers and improving its presence in the global markets, both of which align with the company's strategic goal. The evaporator is expected to be online February 2016.

HEALTHCARE COVERAGE ENROLLMENT WORKSHOPS OFFERED

Afternoon outreach sessions to assist community members to sign up for the Affordable Care Act are being held in Visalia in March. Residents should bring Social Security numbers for U.S. citizens, or document information for immigrants with satisfactory status; employer and income information for everyone in the family; and federal tax information. If you don't file taxes, you can still quality for free or low-cost insurance through Medi-Cal. Light refreshments will be served.

Sessions are scheduled: Wednesday, March 12, at Veva Blunt Elementary School Cafeteria, 1119 S. Chinowth Rd., Visalia; and Tuesday, March 18, at Golden West High School Cafeteria, 1717 N. McAuliff St., Visalia. Both sessions run from 3:30-7pm, and are provided by Kaweah Delta Health Care District and Tulare County Health & Human Services Agency. For more information, call 624-8077.

BANK OF THE SIERRA LAUNCHES NEW LOGO & TECHNOLOGY UPGRADE

Bank of the Sierra announced the launch of two major brand and system enhancements. The upgrades include a fresh corporate brand and logo, as well as major renovations to its website, online banking and mobile banking systems. The new branding follows eight months of research, including focus groups and surveys with customers, non-customers, employees and brand consultants.

"The rebrand has had a rejuvenating effect on our team," said CEO Jim Holly. "Our new logo and brand strategy have helped us define our purpose and realign our long and short term goals."

SONY PICTURES TELEVISION LAUNCHES CLASSIC HOLLYWOOD MOVIES NETWORK

getTV, Sony Pictures Television Network's new U.S. digital broadcast television network, showcasing Hollywood's most memorable films from the 1930s through the 1960s, launched last month in more than 44% of the U.S. television households. Carried as a digital subchannel on Univision Television Group-owned stations and others, getTV is launching in 24 markets, representing 17 of the top 20 DMAs. Its Fresno area affiliate is KFTV-DT in Hanford (21.2).

STUDY RANKS TULARE COUNTY ON TOBACCO, ALCOHOL AND NUTRITION

For the first time, data from stores that sell tobacco has been analyzed on a statewide level and has been combined with data on the availability and promotion of alcohol and food products in community stores. The new survey released on March 5 includes findings on: density of stores selling tobacco and proximity to schools; pricing and types of tobacco and alcohol products being sold; marketing and ad placement of tobacco, alcohol and food products; e-cigarettes, and the availability of fresh fruits and vegetables.

Thirteen simultaneous regional news conferences were held to release the data and launch the new statewide campaign, "Healthy Stores for a Healthy Community." For more information, visit www.HealthyStoresHealthyCommunity.com.

VUSD OFFERS REVIEW OF MATH INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Visalia Unified School District is providing an opportunity for the community to review instructional materials under consideration for use in mathematics classrooms at the elementary and middle school levels. Mathematics textbooks for kindergarten through Grade 8 will be on display beginning Monday, March 10, through Friday, April 11, at The Visalia Learning Center, 630 South Atwood, and at Visalia Unified School District Educational Office Complex, 5000 W. Cypress Ave.

Questions/comments may be forwarded to Stacey Curschman at 735-8071 or scurschman@vusd.org, or Linda Bastrire at 735-8124 or lbastrire@vusd.org.

'BARBERSHOPPER OF THE YEAR' ANNOUNCED

The Mighty Oak Barbershop Chorus has bestowed upon Ken McNutt the title of "Barbershopper of the Year." McNutt currently sings in a quartet, Some Assembly Required, and over the years has sung in a variety of quartets. He was born and raised in Visalia and works as a service representative at Martinizing Cleaners in downtown Visalia.

The chorus also announced its officers for 2014: President Fred Speckman, Program VP Dee Baughman, Membership VP Rod Robinson, Publicity VP Lee Smith, Secretary Bud Case, Treasurer Pat Harrison and Board Members Ted Petersdorf, Gerald Mitchell, Paul Simon, Norm Bryan and Greg Huber.

The Heart Line – Relationship Symbols, Stories and Strategies, Part II

KAY PACKARD

"The only lasting beauty is the beauty of the heart."
-- Rumi

A relationship works best when you attend to the beauty of the relationship. You can deepen your understanding of your own and someone else's essential love style by deciphering one line in the hand—the Heart Line. In Part I of The Heart Line, I covered the Hermit Heart Line. Today, lets identify the Passionate and the Big Heart Heart Lines and understand the non-negotiable needs they reveal in relationship.

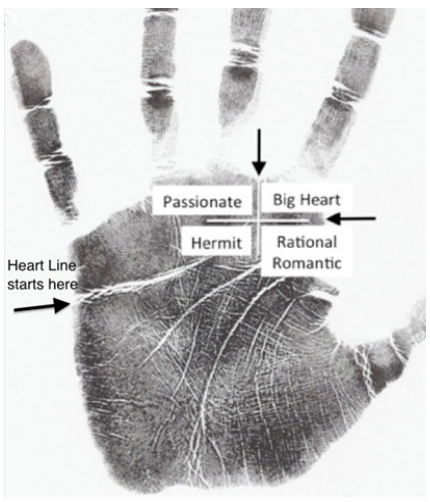

Fig. 1 Assigned names depending on section of the quadrant where the Heart Line terminates

Steps to Analyzing the Heart Line

- Step 1. Locate the Heart Line carved in your hands.
- Step 2. Starting on the outside edge of the palm, follow the line and note in which section of the imaginary quadrant your Heart Line ends.
- Step 3. Read the associated descriptions.

Heart Line Styles

Identification: The Heart Line starts on the outer edge of the palm under the pinkie finger and runs horizontally across the palm. The line may be straight or curved and long or short. It usually ends somewhere beneath the middle or index finger. Any Heart Line style is possible on a hand. You may also find a different Heart Line on each hand.

Heart Line Shapes

The shape of the Heart Line indicates preferred characteristics when relating to others and corresponds to sections in an imaginary quadrant, as we will see in Fig. 1. Curvy lines belong to expressive people who typically show their feelings easily. The Big Heart and the Passionate types have curvy lines. They exhibit their feelings more than those with flat or straight Heart Lines. Straight lines belong to people who are more reserved. They present their feelings reluctantly. The Hermit and the Rational Romantic types have flat Heart Lines. They are less likely to display their emotions outwardly.

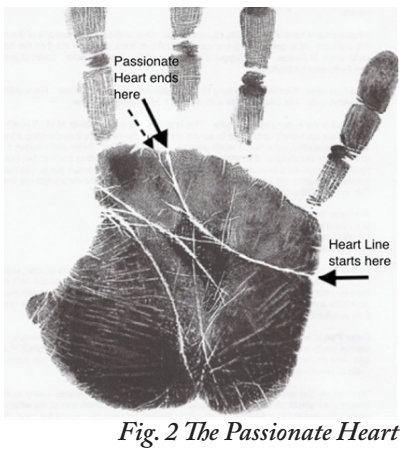

Fig. 2 The Passionate Heart

The Heart Line Quadrant

As illustrated in Part I, the imaginary quadrant has four sections (Fig. 1). To position the quadrant, on one hand at a time, draw an imaginary line straight down between the index and middle finger. Next, draw an imaginary horizontal line across the vertical line about half an inch from base of fingers. Now, determine which section your Heart Line ends.

Names are assigned to the Heart Line type depending on which section the Heart Line ends. Look to see in which section of the quadrant your Heart Line ends on both hands.

Names are assigned to the Heart Line type depending on which section the Heart Line ends. Look to see in which section of the quadrant your Heart Line ends on both hands.

The Passionate

The Passionate Heart Line curves up toward the middle finger (Fig. 2). It touches the top of the palm and ends in the upper right section of the quadrant under the middle finger. The dotted arrow shows a piece of the Heart Line but it is not considered when determining the termination point of this Heart Line.

If you are the Passionate Heart, you are likely enthusiastic, expressive and even flirtatious. You have the charisma to be the life of the party. Your natural design is like the campfire, attracting people to warmth. It's crucial for you to express your wants, even when others might not seem to appreciate your directness. You tend to be happiest, when you do expose your desires. Your biggest challenge is being stuck with people you consider boring. You can be so intense that when you feel something passionately, it shows. A word of caution though—that little campfire can turn into a forest fire if its not contained. I remind the Passionate Heart to display his or her wildest passions and be considerate of the needs of others. At your best you bring an excitement and charisma to the scene. Your challenge is to remember the emotional needs of others.

Affirm: I am claiming my desires and expressing my passion with grace and consideration.

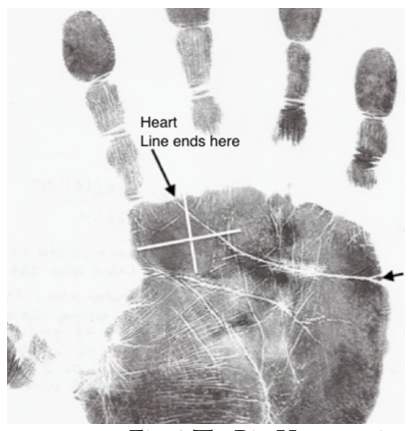

Fig. 3 The Big Heart section of the quadrant

The Big Heart

The Big Heart curves up toward the index finger. It touches the top of the palm and ends in the upper section of the quadrant under the index finger or closer to the index finger than the middle finger (In Fig. 2, see the arrow between the index and middle fingers).

If you are the Big Heart, you feel emotions keenly and are warmhearted, caring and nurturing of others. You like connecting with other people and animals. Your favorite song might be "All You Need is Love" by the Beatles. My friend Kit calls the owner of this line "The Sweet Heart." Your natural design is like a water droplet that joins the pool at the base of a waterfall. Seeing others bond during a special gathering warms your heart.

Your feelings are hurt if people suddenly disconnect with you or you witness detachment and conflict between loved ones. Your biggest challenge is to nurture yourself along with others and not fall victim to emotional sell-out. If, in your view, someone disconnects from you abruptly, you might take it personally and become overly critical of yourself, blaming yourself (or another) for the separation. I remind the Big Heart to look at the truth of the change or separation in the relationship to help you accept yourself and all your feelings in all stages of the relationship. At your best you help people feel loved and cared for while also spending some time alone nurturing yourself. On a bad day, you can easily lose yourself in the drama of others and feel like a victim.

Affirm: I am the love I seek and long to embody.

No Heart Line is better than another. What's important is to register and claim your natural love style. I've seen troubles brew when someone thinks he or she should behave like a snail when really he or she is a gazelle.

Watch for Part III – The Rational Romantic and a few other variations.

This article is an excerpt from Kay's upcoming book, Your Life is in Your Hands. Kay holds a Master of Arts degree in Spiritual Psychology and teaches people the art and science of Hand Analysis. For more information, visit KayPackard.com.

EDC

Continued from p. 1

the money to Washam's department than to the EDC. "The rate of return is not satisfactory. If it's all or nothing, then I vote for nothing."

Supervisor Allan Ishida said that eight years ago, when he first joined the board, the EDC was just putting out fires and that things needed to change but nothing changed, and he still doesn't see a return on their investment.

Ishida moved that the county stop funding the EDC and Ennis seconded. The motion carried 4-1 with Vander Poel voting against.

The next morning, the EDC Board of Directors held their monthly meeting on the College of the Sequoias Tulare campus.

"The EDC will continue," said Vejvoda before the meeting. "Our mission is too important. We'll look at our work plan and we'll look at our budget and we'll move on. We'll create jobs."

Washam, whose small department the county is now investing its economic development dollars with was present and was asked for his input.

"I told the board yesterday, we're not doing the work the EDC does," he said. "Obviously there's value in the EDC. The more you can put into economic development, the better."

Washam described the supervisors' vote as "a policy decision."

Vejvoda said the EDC would look at its work plan, budget and dues structure. "The formula hasn't been looked at for a while." He then expressed his frustration with the discussion at the supervisors' meeting.

"There are a number of things that were quite disappointing," he said. "Board members said things as fact that weren't factual. I was just kind of surprised at some of the comments I heard from intelligent people."

"Supervisor Ishida said he laid out concerns and that nothing had changed," said EDC Treasurer Colby Wells of The Gas Company, noting that supervisors had expressed concerns years ago about the EDC getting into areas such as education and tourism.

"We shed the tourism; we shed the welcoming center; we shed several sponsors," said Wells. "We as an organization went through a complete metamorphosis based on what the county wanted us to do."

"We have known that the county would be leaving for a while; that this momentum was building; and that this would happen," said Visalia City Manager Mike Olmos. "Yesterday's action, from the city managers' perspective, is what we expected. We understand the county has different goals and that's OK.

"It's key to us is that this organization receives the state's prospects," he continued. "That's important to us. We're ready to move on and go to the next phase."

EDC Board Member and Porterville Chamber of Commerce CEO Donnette Silva-Carter agreed with Vejvoda's comments about the discussion that preceded the supervisors' vote. "There were things said that were less than truthful," she said. "I do feel that (the EDC) board has been working hard to redirect our efforts and that information is not being put out there."

There was a consensus of opinion that the EDC would get its message out to the public. There was also a sense that the supervisors' decision may eventually be changed.

"What I'm looking for is to rebuild the relationship to gradually get back to county participation at some point in the future," said Watham. "On a staff level, we get along and work together all the time. Yesterday was like a band-aid coming off. Now, it's the healing process. The board is not saying that the EDC shouldn't exist. They're just putting their funding elsewhere."

EDC Board Member and Porterville Mayor Cam Hamilton expressed a different tone, saying that "the motivating factor" in the supervisors' decision was firing someone at the EDC. "Trying to make nice-nice isn't going to happen because of the way this came down."

EDC President/CEO Paul Saldana said that the EDC provides emailed reports to the board of supervisors on a regular basis and has always attended board of supervisors meetings when invited, but, "for the past several years, we have not been invited. We have certainly not refused to give comments to the board of supervisors."

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Shelton

Continued from p. 1

did that, and he would respond, "The question is not why did I go out there; the question is why didn't any of you."

Shelton likes being called rebellious and a fighter. He is proud of the relationship he helped develop between the Tule reservation and the city, as well of the job he did as a city council member. He leaves a council that has a balanced budget and that oversees a city with two new parks, new commercial developments, roads getting fixed "and housing back to where it was before the bubble."

Greg Shelton

Shelton believes it is now time to move on.

"District 5 doesn't have a great relationship with the board since I have been on city council," he said. "(Supervisors) started three actions and investigations, and delayed for three years the Tule Septic System, a $7 million project paid for by the federal government. They were the barons and we were all fifes.

"Porterville has a reputation for being the rebellious stepchild of Tulare County, the butt of a lot of jokes," he continued. "They're an independent but a righteous group, but they do what they think."

Shelton said he would do things differently than current District 5 Supervisor Mike Ennis, who (so far) is running for re-election against Porterville City Council Member Virginia Gurrola, former Porterville City Council Member Felipe Martinez, and now Shelton.

"My representative – I would expect him to vote the consensus of his constituents, just as I would be an instrument of my constituents," said Shelton. "If they tell me they want a Super Wal-Mart, then I'll fight for a Super Wal-Mart. I would expect when Mr. Ennis goes out there, he would have honored the wishes of his constituents and done what they want.

"Mike's a wonderful guy," he continued. "His problem is he's weak. We've tried (Ennis as supervisor) for eight years and we've gotten table scraps at best. We think he's a wonderful man, a model of decorum. He's just not a fighter. Nice guys finish last and that's what's happening to our district."

Shelton believes that without his candidacy, Ennis might have received 51% of the vote and been re-elected in the June primary. "When I entered the fray, it throws a wrench in the dynamics. The Tea Party likes me. The conservatives like me, but I'm not as dogmatic. People say, 'You're not a union guy but you're really concerned about workers,' – but not to where I'm a horrible union lackey. It's mostly for empathy because I've been there.

"If you like things happening the way things have been for the last eight years, don't vote for me," said Shelton. "I'm going to change the way it's done. I'm not going to roll over."

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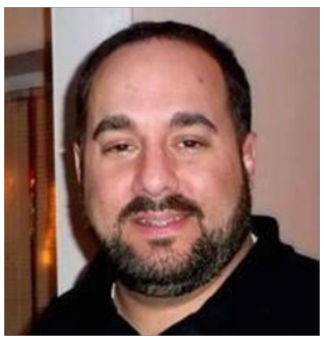
Budget Realignment Reflects Pentagon's Vision of Covert and Endless War

BRIAN J. TRAUTMAN



The Pentagon's budget proposal for next year was announced last week by Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel. In an interview with *The New York Times*, Hagel argued that to meet today's national security needs, the Department of Defense (DoD) must shift its focus and capabilities away from "fighting grinding ground conflicts" and towards "new arenas of combat." To achieve these ends, the budget calls for a realignment of the military that would reduce the total number of ground troops to its lowest level since 1940 and discontinue some military equipment deemed obsolete or unnecessary. According to Hagel, current levels of both assets are "larger than we can afford to modernize and keep ready." The proposed budget also includes reductions in personnel benefits and base services, as well as base closings. The targeted cuts, however, are only one aspect of the budget. The other involves the new sources of priority spending.

The budget plan includes a call for greater expenditures on computer-based technologies and special operations. The Nation's Bob Dreyfuss reports that the "cuts would fund new projects including cyberwarfare capabilities, $1 billion for a more fuel-efficient jet engine, and plans for a new Navy surface ship." Despite the cuts to traditional aspects of the military, the DoD has no plans to shrink or limit programs that would undermine America's ever-growing hegemonic objectives. Dreyfuss writes, "Major weapons systems that might have been cut were sustained, the U.S. special forces units are being increased substantially from already high levels" and "the U.S. Navy would maintain all eleven of its aircraft carriers."

According to National Priorities Project, a nonprofit, non-partisan federal budget research organization, even as Hagel is requesting "cutbacks in a number of military programs, the Pentagon isn't planning any major reductions in spending any time soon." While the cuts translate to savings in specific areas, "the new Pentagon budget does not project a commensurate decline in spending." In fact, the United States will continue to carry a defense budget which exceeds that of the next 10 countries combined.

In a blog post titled "New War Budget and Strategy Announced by Obama team," Bruce Gagnon, coordinator of the Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space, points out that the Pentagon's approach "actually calls for an increase of more than $115 billion for war making" and "for 'sustaining' the Pentagon's nuclear triad - air, ground, and sea delivery systems of nuclear weapons." Furthermore, this budget would bring about "an increase in drones and robotic forces as well as significant expansion in cyber warfare capabilities." Gagnon warns that "We will see an expansion of U.S. 'hidden' wars in the near future and the Obama budget reflects this reality."

Hagel's proposal is already receiving pushback from Congress. Most of the criticism has come from lawmakers who financially benefit from the business-as-usual paradigm of the military-industrial complex. Many of these politicians represent districts in which a military base is located, and therefore both they and their districts could be negatively impacted by the cuts. Few lawmakers, though, are directing their criticism at the fundamental reason the budget is unreasonable and unacceptable: it will facilitate many more clandestine missions across the globe, effectively allowing the DoD and the Executive branch to be less transparent and accountable to the American people and the international community.

The Pentagon's decision to shift attention to the latest and most deadly technologies should come as no surprise. It is a move that has been in the pipeline for some time, and is already reflected in the deployment of unmanned armed aerial vehicles (e.g., predator drones) and Special Forces or "kill teams." Why and how these tactics have been implemented over the past decade has been a subject of scrutiny. Among those who have raised moral and legal questions and warned about the implications of these operations is investigative journalist and best-selling author Jeremy Scahill. His most recent book, *Dirty Wars: The World is a Battlefield*, which was made into an Oscar-nominated documentary film, tells the hidden truth behind America's increasingly covert, privatized, borderless, permanent war machine. With this new budget, we should expect much greater use of this machine moving forward.

Make no mistake. The Pentagon's proposal to transform the military is a smoke and mirrors plan. It does not represent a dismantling of the military-industrial complex but a chilling morphing of it, and will advance American imperial power and further enrich war profiteers even as it cuts out the troops. Anti-war and peace activists who have long demanded meaningful cuts in the bloated military budget have little to celebrate after Hagel's deceptive announcement. This budget does not signal a change in U.S. foreign policy or the nation's perceived or actual role in the world. The justification and implications of the new military budget reveal the frightening reality of the government's intention to continue its quest for global domination. It once again exposes the true face of American Empire as it develops and employs new ways to control governments and natural resources under the veil of counter-terrorism and national security.

Brian J. Trautman writes for PeaceVoice, is a military veteran, an instructor of peace studies at Berkshire Community College in Pittsfield, MA, and a peace activist. On Twitter @TrautBri.

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Black Tie

ALEX OLDENBOURG

Sweet! I won this baby in a raffle…

The Homeless and Property Rights

Imagine you buy a property, maintain it, pay taxes on it, fix things, pay bills etc and then read the following nightmare going on, all around Visalia, including the Oval.

You arrive at your property first thing in the morning, and you observe a huge pile of human excretement, you notice things broken, stolen or broken into, you observe the remnants of a shelter, like cardboard, bedding, mattresses.

You see, some of these so called homeless, whatever their personal infirmities are by choice choosing to live a certain lifestyle. I refer to this as "lifestyle homeless" otherwise known as "free rent campers." You see, these so called homeless have found a crack in the system, a foot in the door. What they do is look dirty, travel around with their possessions and put their hand out and then they don't have to do anything or pay anything. Then, life is a big party, as you do what you want to do all day long, like sit around, get high, get drunk, smoke cigarettes. There are places that feed you for free, free clothing is provided, all your needs and wants are taken care of for free so why shouldn't you just use someone's property for free. They do, and they do it, day in and day out.

Here is the problem with the city taking the stance that homeless is not the city's governments problem and putting all the responsibility on the faith community. The above niche of homeless, and they are not a small number, are committed to living on other peoples property, defecating on it, urinating on it and they pay no costs associated with all the trouble and vandalism they cause. Zero! Free rent camping! They refuse to seek shelter. I know, I have asked them. They want no rules and shelters come with rules, shelters come with questions, and then they will actually have to do something positive.

The problem, as far as I can tell, is that no city councilman has had someone basically living on their property day in and day out, so they don't think or know that there is a problem, so nothing is being done. Every night all over the city, this crew of overnight free rent campers, take over someone else's property for their own personal use and campsite. They pay nothing. Caught or confronted they just go somewhere else and visit this problem on another unsuspecting property owner. Why does this go on you might ask? Because the city and the council, either by choice, ignorance or blatant incompetence, has not addressed this issue.

I have offered a plan. The city ought to designate a city lot or some location that is permitted for these people to free rent camp if that is their chosen lifestyle. Why? So they cease playing musical chairs and hide the potato with property owners rights who are nightly under siege from this crowd. The city will also set up volunteers at this site, services at this site, toilets at this site and most important storage for these campers for their camping stuff during the day at this site.

They camp overnight where their camping stuff is stored and that is why they continue to camp at and around the Oval, because all their camping stuff is stored there. They even have taken to the using of the parks benches as a storage containers, leaving their stuff under the benches 24/7/365. Once the proposed site is designated, you will have the ability to expose this crowd to something called Rules!

Come up with real solutions and start with a designated place to go from 10pm to 6am so Police Officers can enforce the property rights of citizens and not be seen as mere powerless, patsies who can not effect any enforcement of law and order for property rights. You see, this crowd does not like to follow rules, that is why they camp for free on other peoples property without any compunction. If the city takes the time and effort and creates this one rule, a rule that the free rent campers must follow, you will force them to join the real world where rules exist. The city by ignoring this problem is enabling their camping/defecating behavior. The city is disarming the effectiveness of law enforcement. The city is undermining, cheapening and taking away property rights. The city is protecting the criminality element and not protecting tax paying, law abiding citizens.

You fixed the shopping carts disaster now it's time to take the next step and fix the property rights/free rent camper disaster.

Bill Huott, Visalia, CA

Bollywood Comes to Tulare County

STAFF REPORTS

The ducks that make their home in Mooney Grove Park in Visalia are used to being the center of attention when visitors from throughout the Central Valley come to play and recreate in the park, but last week the local mallards drew an international audience – and played minor roles in some action scenes for a Bollywood movie being filmed in Tulare County.

"These birds are beautiful!" exclaimed Jaswant Dev Shrestha, first assistant director of the K R Films production "Mera Watten" – which translates to "My Country" in Punjabi. Shrestha's film crew was shooting long shots of the film's lead characters as they strolled across the Freedom Bridge that spans the large pond in Mooney Grove, while half a dozen colorful waterfowl flapped across the foreground.

"My Country" is the story of an Indian couple who meet by chance and develop a relationship when an attractive young woman's car breaks down, and she is rescued by an Indian truck driver. The film's cast and crew traveled here from India, Canada and the Los Angeles area to film the tale of love along the highway as the couple visit one truck stop after another. Of course, in true Bollywood fashion, there is music, dancing and lots of mystical moments – on a scale not commonly seen in American films since the Golden Age of filmmaking in the '50s and '60s.

Bollywood is to Indian cinema what Hollywood is to American filmmaking – center stage. Strictly speaking, Bollywood refers to the Hindi film industry, and draws its name from the B in Bombay (or Mumbai) combined with Hollywood. But Bollywood has come to symbolize the whole of the Indian film industry to many, including Punjabi film production.

Punjabi is spoken in the northern regions of India and Pakistan. The Indian film market is one of the largest in the world, and Punjabi films are increasingly popular in North America, where Indians have settled in large numbers throughout Canada and America, including the Central Valley.

Bollywood filmmaking at the Mooney Grove museum.

"The United States is an important film market for Indian filmmakers," said Shrestha, who contacted the Tulare County Film Commission when choosing locations to film "My Country" with his partner on this project, the film's director Kavi Raz, himself a well-known Indian actor, director and writer who has appeared in more than 250 movies and television shows. Shrestha and Raz inquired about shooting in many locations in and around Traver, and in Mooney Grove Park.

Within Mooney Grove, the film crew shot scenes both around the park in various locales and in the History of Farm Labor & Agriculture Museum.

My Country is expected to be completed by late summer and released in theaters this fall. Impressed by the ease of receiving permits and the help finding suitable locations, Shrestha is already talking to the Tulare County Film Commission about directing more projects to this area.

'Cesar Chavez: Celebrating the Legacy' Celebration Poster Contest

STAFF REPORTS

March 31 marks the birthday of Cesar Chavez (1927-1993), a man who committed his life to helping and improving the lives of others. To pay tribute to his legacy of service, the Cesar Chavez Celebrating the Legacy Committee is organizing an art poster contest.

Youth in grades K-12 are encouraged to submit original artwork reflecting Chavez' work, philosophies and values. Entries cannot be smaller than 8 ½ "x 11" or longer than 8 ½" x 14". Prizes will be awarded to first, second and third place winners of different grade categories. Deadline to submit artwork is Friday, March 14.

Contest winners will be publicly recognized on Saturday, March 29, during the Cesar E. Chavez Celebrating the Legacy event to take place from noon to 3pm at Visalia Community Campus, 224 NW 3rd St. The event will feature activities for the whole family – from a youth mariachi group, guest speakers from the Cesar Chavez Foundation, a magician and informational booths.

The committee is composed of private citizens and community members. Some of the agencies the committee members represent include: the Dolores Huerta Foundation, Radio Campesina, SEIU Latino Caucus, Tulare/Kings Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Visalia Unified School District, Tulare County League of Mexican American Women, Porterville College M.E.Ch.A, GI Forum, Wild Places and Proteus, Inc.

For more information, contact Margie Perez at mperez@proteusinc.org or 733-5423.

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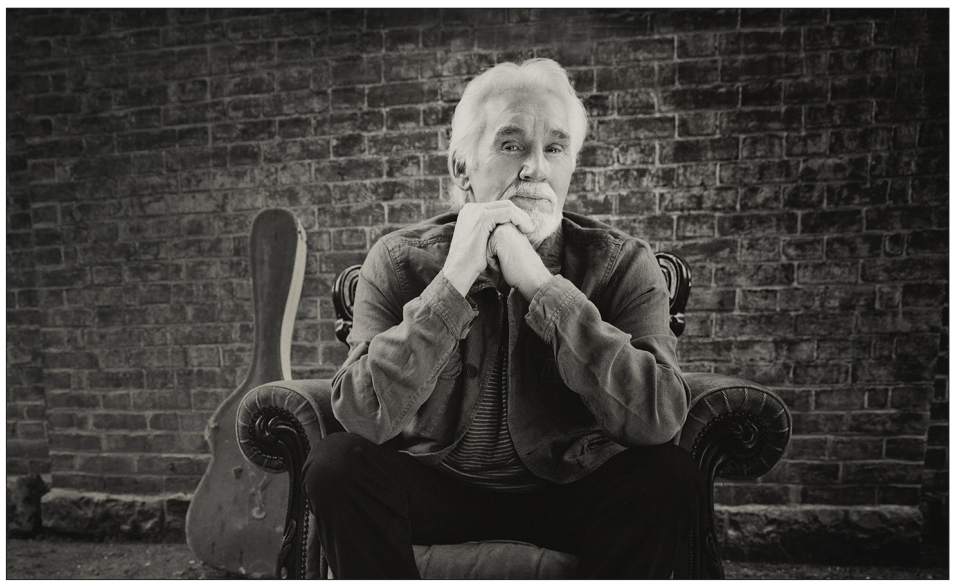

Kenny Rogers

Kenny Rogers to Perform at Hanford Fox on March 13

STAFF REPORTS

Known for his instantly identifiable sweetly raspy vocals and the ability to vividly inhabit each song he performs, Kenny Rogers has sold more than 120 million records worldwide and recorded more than 65 albums during his storied 52 years in show business.

And on Thursday, March 13, he will bring his talents to the stage of the Hanford Fox Theatre for an 8pm show.

Rogers' long list of classics includes 24 #1 hits including "The Gambler," "Lady," "Lucille," "She Believes in Me," "Islands in the Stream" and "We've Got Tonight." Two of his albums, The Gambler and Kenny, are featured in the About.com poll of "The 200 Most Influential Country Albums Ever," and his Greatest Hits album has sold over 24 million copies worldwide to date. He is the RIAA's eighth best selling male artist of all time with one diamond album, 19 platinum albums and 31 gold albums.

Last year, Rogers was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in Nashville. Earlier this year, he picked up another career achievement in his other talent and passion, photography, when he received an honorary master of photography degree from Professional Photographers of America.

Rogers has received hundreds of awards for his music and charity work, including three Grammys, 11 People's Choice Awards, 18 American Music Awards, eight Academy of Country Music awards and five Country

Continued on p. 22 »

St. Patrick's Day Parade Planned for March 15

Events Visalia invites everyone to join the festivities of this year's St. Patrick's Day Parade in downtown Visalia beginning at 10am on Saturday, March 15. The parade will begin at Garden Street Plaza, head west on Main Street and then north on Willis, ending just north of Center Street.

The parade will feature marching bands from Visalia and Farmersville. There will be sirens sounding from the Visalia Police and Fire Departments as they kick-off and end the parade. Prancing horses, mascots, a variety of antique and collectable cars, as well as floats and community groups will strut down Main Street in their St. Patty's Day best.

This year's grand marshal is Francie Levy.

KJUG Morning Radio Host Mike Pesto along with Chad, April Skye from Classic Rock 99.7 and Randy Hendix from 104.9 (all from Momentum Broadcasting) will announce the parade entries from different locations along the route.

And throughout the day, the celebration will continue at various venues. Visalia Towne Trolley and will be offering free trolley rides from 1-7pm. The trolley will stop at numerous downtown locations, including stops at downtown parking garages and Rawhide Stadium.

Leprechauns have been spotted at previous St. Patrick's day parades.

Event sponsors include: Sequoia Beverage and Budweiser, The Vintage Press, The Southern Pacific Depot, Jack & Charlie's, The Times-Delta Media Group, Kaweah Delta Health Care District, and Valley Business Bank. The Arts Consortium has also contributed help and support.

For more information, visit www.eventsvisalia.org.

Tulare County Symphony to Present 'Casablanca' on March 15

DONNA OROZCO

On Saturday, March 15, the Tulare County Symphony will give its audience a chance to see "Casablanca," one of the most popular movies of all time, in a unique way. While the movie is played on the big screen at the Visalia Fox Theatre, the orchestra will recreate the musical score.

During music director Bruce Kiesling's second year with the symphony (which was the first year he was on hand to choose the programming), he added a movie night that featured nothing but songs from movies. This concert quickly sold out. The next season continued that tradition. Then last year, there was a new twist. The film classic "Psycho" was shown on the big movie screen at the Fox, but the music for the film was all supplied by the orchestra – complete with screechy violins.

So this year the tradition continues with the showing of the 1942 movie featuring Ingrid Bergman and Humphrey Bogart in his first romantic role. The music for "Casablanca" was written by Max Steiner, best known for the score of "Gone with the Wind." The song "As Time Goes By" by Herman Hupfeld had been part of the story from the original play. Steiner wanted to write his own composition to replace it, but Ingrid Bergman had already cut her hair short for her next role (Maria in "For Whom the Bell Tolls") and could not reshoot the scenes which incorporated the song, so Steiner based the entire score on it and "La Marseillaise," the French national anthem, transforming them to reflect changing moods.

Asked how he keeps track of the music and when to bring in the orchestra, Kiesling said, "I'm always keeping an eye on the timing. I have two small

Continued on p. 24 »

"Crest of the Sierra" by Mona Fox Selph

'Sierra Wonders' Exhibition to Support Young Artists

KEVIN BOWMAN

"Experience the Southern Sierra Nevada from the viewpoint of painters, poets, sculptors, photographers and storytellers," reads the back cover of the recently published Sierra Wonders. Late last year, the Arts Alliance of Three Rivers produced this exceptional book highlighting the creations of artists and writers as they pay tribute to the extraordinary wonders of the Southern Sierra Nevada. The project resulted in a remarkable document of this special place we who live here in Tulare County call our backyard.

Working in partnership with the publishers, Arts Visalia is proud to present a major exhibition highlighting works by many of the artists involved in the Sierra Wonders publication. Featured in the exhibition are paintings, photographs, pastels, watercolors and a few sculptural works, each of which appear in the original book. Also included in the exhibition are excerpts from a selection of the writings found in the book, both prose and poetry, an aspect of the original project which truly makes it complete.

Included in the exhibition are artworks by Steven Ball, Jana Botkin, Jeri Burzin, Deborah Campbell, Martha

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'Little Shop of Horrors' Offers Scary, Fun Musical Romp

NANCY HOLLEY

Did you ever sit, peering through spread fingers, scared stiff but curious? Ever think, "This is fiction, but what if?"

If so, then "Little Shop of Horrors" is made for you. Described by director Corey Ralston as a spoof of the grade-B horror films of the '50s and '60s, "Little Shop of Horrors" is romp for the imagination with music that is catchy and fun.

Sean Hopper as Seymour.

The story's central character, Seymour Krelborn (Sean Hopper), is obsessed by unusual plants and a femme fatale he is too shy to approach, at least at first. Hopper describes Seymour as the unknown villain, indebted to the flower shop owner who rescued him from an orphanage.

"He was rescued to provide manual labor and lives in deplorable conditions, but for him anything is better than growing up in an orphanage," he explains.

Audrey, Seymour's femme fatale, is ably portrayed by Lindsay Tweed, a newcomer to Visalia. "I've only been here since June," says Tweed. "I grew up all over the country and the world, but I love musical comedy and I wanted to get involved." Tweed describes Audrey as "a very challenged person who grew up in the gutter. She clings to anyone who can support her, whether good for her or not."

As the flower shop falls on hard times and Audrey's "money man" Orin Scrivello (Henry Gonzales) becomes more abusive, Seymour has problems of his own. His most recent plant adventure appears doomed. The plant is dying without apparent cause until Seymour's pricked finger provides it with life's blood. Audrey II – the plant's naming is Seymour's admission of unrequited love – responds beyond Seymour's expectations and his fame begins.

The flower shop begins to prosper, and Audrey's affections for Seymour change. How will Seymour handle fame and fortune? What unexpected twists and turns may occur? For those familiar with the film version of "Little Shop of Horrors," there are surprises in store. The end of the play apparently did not work in the film and was rewritten. The stage version has the original ending.

For Ralston, "Little Shop of Horrors" is a work of love and heartbreak. "I originally directed the play when I was 16 at Kings County Fairground," he says. "I always thought if I did the show again it would be as Seymour. I identify with him. That's the hazard of being an actor/director, you often miss the roles you covet most."

On Sunday, March 23, after the matinee, "Back Stage at the Ice House" will be hosted by Sharon DeCoux, a veteran Visalia Player. Audience members will have an opportunity for a behind-the-scenes look at the show and the opportunity to ask questions and interact with cast and crew.

"Little Shop of Horrors" runs for three weekends at the Ice House Theater at Race and Santa Fe in Visalia. Evening performances are at 7:30pm on March 14, 15, 21, 22, 28 and 29, and matinees are at 2pm on March 16, 23 and 30. To purchase tickets, visit www.visaliaplayers.org or the Visalia Community Players Facebook page, or call 734-3900.

Boyz II Men

Boyz II Men Sells Out March 20 Show at Tachi Palace

STAFF REPORTS

Boyz II Men will take the stage at Tachi Palace in Lemoore on Thursday, March 20, for a 7:30pm show. The trio is known for such hits as "I'll Make Love to You," "It's So Hard To Say Goodbye to Yesterday," Motownphilly" and "End of the Road."

Boyz II Men's clean-cut "retro nouveau" image, synchronized dance routines and polished stage act were key to their rapid rise to stardom in the early 1990s. Between 1992 and 1997, the group recorded five #1 pop hits and 12 Top 10 R&B singles They sold over 60 million records worldwide, and earned a host of awards including four Grammy Awards. On January 5, 2012, Boyz II Men was awarded a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

The show is sold out. For more information, visit www.tachipalace.com.

Lacy J. Dalton

Lacy J. Dalton to Headline Lindsay Theater March 15

STAFF REPORTS

The Lindsay Theater will welcome country music legend Lacy J. Dalton and her group, the Dalton Gang, to the South Valley at 7:30pm on Saturday, March 15, as a part of its concert series.

Dalton's music is a product of her wide-ranging musical tastes. Her early influences were the classic country music of the '40s, '50s and '60s, and later, the folk and rock sounds of writer/artists like Bob Dylan and Joan Baez. Throughout her career, she's been a writer and an artist who loved "music with a message" and lyrics that brought a new awareness to the listener.

Dalton has opened shows for such notables as Hank Williams Jr., Willie Nelson, Merle Haggard and Charlie Daniels. Her hit records include such million-airplay cuts as: "Hard Times," "Crazy Blue Eyes," "Hillbilly Girl with the Blues," "Everybody Makes Mistakes," "Black Coffee" and her signature song, "16th Avenue," which was voted one of country's all-time top 100 songs by Billboard Magazine. Voted Best New Female Artist by the Academy of Country Music in 1979, she earned numerous Grammy nominations and three prestigious Bay Area Music Awards for Best Country-Folk Recording, appearing with the likes of Neil Young, the Grateful Dead, and Grace Slick and the Jefferson Airplane.

Opening the show will be Brad "The Dudeboy" Rodgers, who will present his own unique style of music. He is a local country singer who has been writing and performing songs for the last 30 years. Rodgers describes his music as "un-homogenized" – country without any sugarcoating.

The Lindsay Community Theater is located at 190 N. Elmwood, in the heart of downtown Lindsay. Tickets are $15 in advance (at lindsaycommunitytheater.com) and $20 at the door.

For more information, call 284-2223.

ImagineU to Host 'Masquerade' Fundraiser March 8

DONNA OROZCO

ImagineU Children's Museum will host "Masquerade," its second Dreambuilder's Bash, on Saturday, March 8, at 5:30pm at the Visalia Convention Center. The evening will include interactive entertainment, a silent and live auction and a Cajun dinner provided by the Vintage Press.

The event will support the museum's educational activities, crafts and events. Attire is "creative cocktail," and guests are invited to wear masks if they like. Cost is $135. For reservations, call 733-5975.

ImagineU broke ground for its brand new museum in December. Construction will begin soon for a spring 2015 opening. First 5 Tulare County recently granted the museum a $126,000 grant to sponsor the new museum's "Ready, Set, Grow" exhibit which will be a special area for infants and toddlers. The exhibit will include soft boulders for climbing, a tree house, reading center and different textures and levels so young children can move, touch and explore.

The museum is seeking sponsors for other exhibits in the new museum, such as the Majestic Oak Tree Climber with life sciences incorporated into the trunk, Grove Pick 'n Pack where children will learn all about the Valley's citrus industry, U Fix-It Garage where children can repair electric and fuel cell cars, and the Imagination Station Art Gallery where children create paintings using materials from the environment.

To take an interactive tour of the new facility, visit www.imagineumuseum.org.

ImagineU is located at 700 E. Main St., Visalia, and is open Wednesday-Friday from 10-4 and Saturday from 12-4. Special activities are planned every day. Cost is $5 for adults and children 2 and over, and free for children under 2.

Lost In The Trees

Lost In The Trees to Find Way to Cellar Door Stage March 21

When Lost In The Trees – who will perform at the Cellar Door in downtown Visalia on Friday, March 21 – set out to record Past Life, their third album for ANTI-, they knew they needed a break with the past. Frontman Ari Picker looked to move beyond the themes of loss that fueled two emotional, densely personal collections of songs.

Channeling the liberating happiness he felt in his young marriage into his method, he came up with a new approach to writing. "I wanted to reach out and grab the music rather than have it come from some internal place," he said.

On past releases, Picker had used an expanded six-member band to render his carefully composed, classical-inflected songs, bringing them fully arranged to the studio for the band to perform. For the new album, the band was pared to a lean electronic-rock four-piece, and in this new configuration, Lost In The Trees took to the road to workshop the songs that would become Past Life. Immediately, the new tracks evidence more than a band pared down; the arrangements are modern, spare, minimal, emphasizing groove and rhythm, blending the sonic architecture of 21st century electronic dance music, the austere emotion of the minimalist composers, and the sensual swerve of post-Bowie '80s pop.

Having crafted the songs to create a maximum impact in a live setting, the band made their next break with past practice, electing to work with an outside producer for the first time. Nicolas Vernhes, whose credits include breakthrough albums from Deerhunter, Dirty Projectors, Animal Collective and Wild Nothing, endorsed the band's new minimal aesthetic, and the question in the studio became, "How much can we strip away?" With an approach that forefronts beats and basslines, Vernhes and the band lift away the orchestral density of the previous albums – the emotional analog of Picker's intense lyrics – leaving a more direct framework of soul-inflected guitar lines, throbbing groove and Picker's soaring vocal hooks.

Fans who came to the band lured by the lush classicism of All Alone in an Empty House and A Church that Fits Our Needs (the Wall Street Journal's album of the year in 2012) will not be disappointed. After all, the band are known for its unique orchestral sound, and Church, with its intense narrative of loss, drew lavish praise from all quarters, both as an "exquisite exercise in the seduction of melancholy" (Iowa Press-Citizen) and "a stirring blend of modest rusticity and urbane ambition" (New York Times).

The haunting lyricism of Picker's voice and melodies has not diminished in the new sparer approach, but instead rises to the fore, bringing out that timeless quality of the melodies that is the common ground of both folk and pop music. This pop quality, buried but always present in previous efforts, shines on Past Life; not pop in any trivial, retro sense, but the yearning lilt of Harry Nilsson or Mark Hollis, that floating melodicism that Relix found so "achingly beautiful."

"It's supposed to be more abstract – more emotional and ethereal," Picker told the Voice. "It's a template for the listener to latch on to an explore."

Picker said "a lot of people" have influenced the band's sound, from Philip Glass to Grizzly Bear to Braids to Electric Light Orchestra to "some bands I don't even know, that we see on tour." Beyond other people's music, Lost In The Trees is also influenced by friends, family and painting, Picker said. "We all have painting workshops. It's like a salon kind of vibe."

Picker agreed that writing and playing music was therapeutic. "For me, it's fulfilling like what going to church might be fulfilling to someone else. It's an experience that the human soul needs."

He said the best way to appreciate Lost In The Trees music is "headphones – a few beers and headphones."

Lost in the Trees played at the Cellar Door a couple of years ago as the first stop on a tour that probably could have gotten off to a better start. After the show, the promoter drove his Jeep over the bags with the band's rare and unusual percussion instruments.

"He was really cool about it so it was no big deal," Picker said. "It didn't ruin the trip. It was funny."

When asked where he pictured himself in five years, Picker responded, "I have no idea. That's my way of being a happy person." After realizing he had the answer to the question, he said, "I will continue to be a happy person."

Picker may be with Lost In The Trees then, or he may pursue other projects that interest him, such as writing and performing chamber music.

Lost in the Trees, which recently played shows at large venues, is looking forward to the show in the intimate Cellar Door. "If the audience is close and in your face, that's great," he said. "A small crowd can give you energy. Everyone just has to be more brave."

Chicago band Icy Demons will bring their unique experimental pop as the opening act.

The Cellar Door is located at 101 W. Main St., Visalia. Tickets for the 9pm 21+ show are $10, and available at Ticketweb.com.

Calidore Quartet to Premier Work by Local Composer

The Calidore String Quartet

The Calidore String Quartet will premier a new composition by popular Tulare County composer Ken Elias when it performs for Music at the Main in Visalia on March 9. The piece, "Possibility of Grace," was created to accompany a poem of the same name written by Bill Haxton, also of Tulare County.

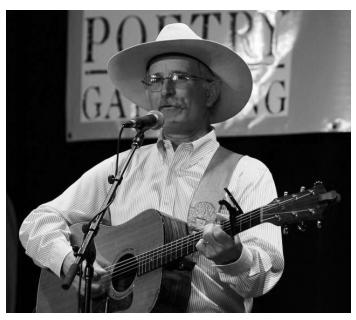
Since coming together at the end of 2010, the Calidore String Quartet has taken the classical music world by storm. In two years, they won grand prizes at the Fischoff, the Chesapeake, the Yellowsprings and the Coleman Competitions in North America, and top prizes in Europe at the ARD Munich and the Hamburg International Competitions.

The quartet performs with the rare combination of emotional power and grace. As individuals, the players – Jeffrey Myers, Ryan Meehan, Jeremy Berry and Estelle Choi – are extraordinary musicians, and their mentors are among the best in the world – Arnold Steinhardt, former lead violin in the world famous Guarneri Quartet; and string ensemble master André Roy, who travels regularly from his home in Canada to work with Calidore at the Colburn Conservatory in Los Angeles. Under Steinhardt and Roy's guidance, Calidore has absorbed a decade of growth in three years and was recently signed by Opus 3, one of the most prestigious management firms in classical music.

The program features: Beethoven's lyrical and fiery "String Quartet No. 1 in F"; Schubert's majestic and introspective "String Quartet No. 14 in D Minor," better known as "Death and the Maiden"; and Elias and Haxton's "Possibility of Grace."

The March 9th show will begin at 3pm at the Main Street Theater, 307 E. Main St., Visalia. As a result of a sponsorship from Brent Baker at Kings Mortgage, ticket prices have been reduced to $12. Tickets are available online at www.musicatthemain.org, or at the door. Children with an accompanying adult are admitted free.

Dave Stamey Returns to Mavericks for March 15th Show



Dave Stamey

Mavericks Coffee House will celebrate its 11th anniversary with a 7pm concert on Saturday, March 15, by its "most famous house musician," Dave Stamey, who is now an Orange Cove resident.

Stamey, also known as "The Buckaroo Man," returns to Mavericks after receiving his third Western Music Association "Entertainer of the Year" award in November. The WMA has also honored him three times as "Male Performer of the Year" and twice as "Songwriter of the Year." He also won the Will Rogers Award from the Academy of Western Artists.

For tickets ($30) or more information, call 624-1400 or visit Mavericks Coffee House, 238 E. Caldwell Ave. (at Court).

Wooden-bodied cars from throughout the state are on their way to Visalia.

The Woodies are Coming!

The Central Valley Woodie Club, the local chapter of the National Woodie Club, has scheduled its eighth annual "Woodies in the Valley" event for March 7-9 in Visalia.

"This is not an ordinary car show," explains Club President Wayne Yada. "It is limited to only wooden-bodied cars, which were only made in this country from 1928-1951. We will host some original woodies, some restored and some modified – all very unique. They are coming to this event from all over the state."

The festivities will begin with a Friday night welcoming reception at the downtown A&W Drive-In, and continue with Saturday activities including the "show 'n shine" on the front lawn of Redwood High School, a scenic afternoon cruise and optional group dinner. The woodies will be available at the A&W event for public viewing. The "show 'n shine" on Saturday will be open to the public free of charge from 8:30am until 1:30pm. All woodie and car enthusiasts are encouraged to attend.

For more information, visit www.valleywoodies.com or call Yada at 967-1357.

Budweiser

MUSIC

March

March 6 – Gloria Trevi – 7:30pm
Tachi Palace will present Gloria Trevi-De Pelicula Tour 2014. Tickets are available at tachipalace.com.

March 6 – Merle Haggard – 8pm
Merle Haggard will perform at the Hanford Fox Theatre. Tickets, $55, $65 and $75, are available at foxhanford.com or by calling 584-7823.

March 7-8 – Keith and the Crawdads – 7-10 p.m.
The Crawdads will have special performances to commemorate Mardi Gras week. Crawfish, fresh from Louisiana along with many other Cajun and Creole favorites will be on the menu. Crawdaddys Visalia is located on the corner of Bridge and Main streets. For information, visit CrawdaddysVisalia.com.

March 7 – Leaving Austin with Truxton Mile – 9:30pm
Leaving Austin performs at the Cellar Door, 101 W. Main Street, Visalia. Tickets $10 (21+). For information, visit cellardoor101.com.

March 9 – Calidore Quartet Premier – 3pm
Calidore Quartet will perform at a Music at the Main concert. The quartet's success has been unprecedented in classical music, taking awards at the Fischoff, the Chesapeake, the Yellowsprings and the Coleman competitions in North America and top prizes in Europe. Tickets are $12. For information and tickets, visit threeriversperformingarts.org.

March 11 – Salsa Tuesdays – 7pm
Every Tuesday night at The Cellar Door features beginner dance lessons at 8pm, music and dancing follows. Cover is $5 for this 21+ event. Partners not required. For information, call 287-7067.

March 11 – Cody Torres – 7-10 p.m.
On Tuesdays, singer and musician Cody Torres performs at Crawdaddys Visalia playing classic Country and Rock hits. For information, visit CrawdaddysVisalia.com.

March 13 – Kenny Rogers – 8pm
Kenny Rogers will perform at the Hanford Fox Theatre. Tickets, $55, 65, $75 and $85, are available at foxhanford.com or by calling 584-7823.

March 13 – Elvis Presley Tribute Concert – 8pm
Crawdaddys Visalia will host a second showing of the Elvis Presley Tribute Concert. The first showing sold out. Call 681-6135 for ticket information.

March 14 – Marble Fork Band – 6:30-8:30pm
The Marble Fork Band performs at Cafe 210 on the second Friday of each month. The ensemble offers original music featuring a Chapman Stick 10 string instrument, acoustic guitar and percussion. Cafe 210 is located at 210 W. Center, Visalia. For information, visit 210life.com.

March 14-15 – The 2nd Floor Night Club – 10am-2 pm
Every Friday and Saturday, Crawdaddys Visalia's 2nd Floor Night Club features DJs and dancing to hip-hop, techno, disco and more. For information, visit CrawdaddysVisalia.com.

March 15 – Dave Stamey – 7pm
Dave Stamey will perform at Mavericks 11th Anniversary Show. Mavericks Coffee House is located at 238 E Caldwell Ave., in Visalia. For information, visit mavericksccoffeehouse.com.

March 15 – Lacy J. Dalton – 7:30pm
Country music legend Lacy J. Dalton and her group, the Dalton Gang, will perform at the Lindsay Community Theater, 190 N Elmwood Ave. Tickets are $15 in advance and $20 at the door. Get tickets at lindsaycommunitytheater.com. For information call 284-2223.

March 15 – TCSO Casablanca – 7:30pm
The Tulare County Symphony Orchestra will play the musical score of the classic film "Casablanca" at the Visalia Fox Theatre, 308 W. Main St. For information, visit tularecountysympony.com.

March 20 – 3's A Crowd – 7-10pm
On Thursdays, 3's A Crowd performs at Crawdaddys Visalia, 333 E. Main St. For information, visit CrawdaddysVisalia.com.

March 20 – Boyz II Men – 7:30pm
Boyz II Men will perform in concert at Tachi Palace in Lemoore. Tickets are $40, $55 and $85. For information, visit tachipalace.com.

March 21 – Lost In The Trees with Special Guests – 9pm-12am
Lost In The Trees will perform with special guests at the Cellar Door in Visalia. This event is for ages 21 and over. Cover charge is $10. For information, visit cellardoor101.com.

March 26 – David Lasswell and the Rounders – 7-10pm
On Wednesdays, its KJUG Country Music night and David Lasswell and the Rounders at Crawdaddys Visalia, 333 E. Main St. For information, visit CrawdaddysVisalia.com.

March 27 – Aaron Lewis – 7:30pm
Aaron Lewis – Grammy Award-nominated, multi-platinum singer, songwriter and guitarist –returns to the Visalia Fox Theatre. Tickets are $29, $39, $49, $69. Tickets and information at foxvisalia.org.

March 28 – Saintseneca and the Gospel Whiskey Runners – 9:30pm-12:30am
Saintseneca and The Gospel Whiskey Runners are slated to perform at the Cellar Door in Visalia. Cover is $7 for 21 and over. For information, visit cellardoor101.com.

EVE

March

March 6, 11-12, 17-19 – Safe Drinking Water Community Outreach – 6-7pm
Environmental Health, in partnership with California Department of Public Health, is offering a series of outreach meetings for those who will be impacted by the state oversight of Safe Drinking Water Act. For information, contact the Environmental Health Division at 624-7400.

March 6, 12 & 18 – Information and Enrollment Assistance for Medi-Cal and Covered California – 3:30-7pm
Affordable Care Act sign-up assistance sessions will be held in Visalia in March by the Tulare County Health & Human Services Agency and Kaweah Delta Health Care District. Residents should bring Social Security numbers or document information for immigrants with satisfactory status; employer income information for everyone in the family; and Federal Income Tax information. Light refreshments will be served. The assistance will be offered at Crowley Elementary School Cafeteria on March 6; at Veva Blunt Elementary School Cafeteria on March 12; and at Golden West High School Cafeteria on March 18.

March 7 – Kings County Homecoming Court Nomination Deadline
Nomination for the 2014 Kings County Homecoming Grand Marshal, Homecoming Queen, and Area Kings and Queens must be made by March 7. For forms and information, visit kingscountyhomecoming.org.

March 7 – Chess Exhibition – 2-6pm
West Hills College Health Careers Department will sponsor a chess exhibition with Instructor George Miller playing against 20 players at one time. Any player who wins will be able to keep the board they play on. There will also be a door prize drawing for ticket holders. To play, sign up in Room 823, West Hills College, 555 College Ave., Lemoore. Entry fee is $10. Tickets for the event are $1. For information, call 925-3490 Monday through Friday, 8am-5pm.

March 7 – Friday Night Market and Street Faire – 5:30–10pm
Beginning in March, Lindsay Chamber of Commerce hosts the Friday Night Market and Street Faire each week at Sweet Brier Plaza in downtown Lindsay. The event features 200+ vendors, entertainment, crafts and other family-focused events and runs through November. After November, the Farmers Market moves indoors to McDermont Field House. For information, visit thelindsaychamber.org.

March 7-8 – Gateway Women's Spring Fling
Cindy Janecka, author of "This Can't Be Happening," will speak at the Gateway Church of Visalia's annual spring fling. The event will be hosted twice. On March 7 at 7pm, brunch will be served, and on March 8 at 7pm, dessert will be served. Tickets available at Gateway Church, 1100 S. Sowell, Visalia.

March 7-8 – California Collegiate Livestock Show
Porterville Fair will host this lamb, swine and goat livestock show at the fairgrounds. For information, visit portervillefair.com.

March 8 – A & F Equine Rescue – 10am-2pm
A & F Equine Rescue is hosting a Grand Opening Ceremony for its rescue services and sanctuary for abused or neglected horses. The free event includes lunch and a raffle fundraiser. The event will be held at Flores Ranch, 19317 Road 124, Tulare, and will include a tour. For information call 736-5049.

March 8 – Porterville College Foundation Hall of Fame Banquet – 5:30pm
Former Pittsburgh Steelers safety Lupe Sanchez will be the featured speaker at the banquet that recognizes former Porterville College students who have made contributions to their professions and communities. The event will be held at River Island County Club in Porterville. Seating is limited. Tickets are $50 for individuals and $275 for a table of six or $350 for a table of eight. Tickets are available by calling 791-2319.

March 8 – ImagineU Dreambuilder's Bash and Masquerade Ball – 5:30pm
ImagineU Interactive Children's Museum will hold a fundraiser at the Visalia Convention Center. The event includes interactive entertainment, a silent auction, a Cajun dinner by The Vintage Press and a live auction. Creative cocktail attire is requested. Tickets are $135. For information, visit imagineumuseum.org or call 733-4975. For sponsorship opportunities call 733-5975.

March 8 – Porterville College Foundation Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Banquet – 5:30pm
Former NFL Safety for the Pittsburgh Stealers, Lupe Sanchez will be the featured speaker at the Hall of Fame Induction Banquet at the River Island Country Club. Tickets are $50 each, $275 for a table of six, and $350 for a table of eight. Seating is limited. For tickets call 791-2319 or 784-5300.

March 8 – Visalia Elks Lodge Annual Wine and Gourmet Food Tasting – 6pm
Elks Lodge #1298 will hold a fundraiser to benefit the Elks Children's Charity and C.A.S.A. of Tulare County. The 10th annual event features a silent auction and live music. Tickets, $20, are available at Visalia Elks Lodge, 734-6762, or by calling Jan at 936-0489.

March 10 – California Sen. Jean Fuller Mobile Office – 10am-12pm
California Senator Jean Fuller will have mobile office hours at the Tulare Chamber of Commerce. The mobile office is a program to promote communication between Fuller's staff and communities. Mobile office hours are

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published on the senator's website at district18.cssrc.us/content/mobile-office-hours.

March 10 – Leadership Visalia – 6th Annual Golf Tournament Deadline – 10:30am
The deadline to register for the Visalia Chamber of Commerce Leadership Visalia Golf Tournament is March 10. Golf individually or sign up as a team. The tournament benefits future leaders in Visalia's business community. Tickets are almost sold out. Contact Mike Cox, 734-5876, for information.

March 11 – Tulare Street Fair and Farmers Market – 5:30-8:30pm
Every Tuesday night through October, the free Tulare Street Fair and Farmers Market is held on K Street, between King and Tulare Avenues. In July, the hours will change to 6-9 p.m. For information, visit tularedowntown.com or call 685-2350.

March 12 – Motivation in the Workplace – 9am-12pm
Cynthia Johnson, professor of communication/psychology at the College of the Sequoias will conduct a seminar at Proteus, 1830 N. Dinuba Blvd., Visalia. To reserve a seat, contact Johnson at cynthiaj@cos.edu.

March 12 – Investor Panel – 6-8pm
The Visalia Chamber of Commerce Young Entrepreneurs Academy students will pitch their new business ventures to a panel of potential investors in the Visalia Unified School District Board Room. For information, 734-5876.

March 13 – Linwood Meadows Care Center Open House/Ribbon Cutting – 4-7pm
Linwood Meadows Care Center is hosting an Open House to celebrate its newly renovated facility achieved by the center's new administrator Aaron Burrup. Food and drinks as well as entertainment will be featured. The center is located at 4444 W. Meadow Ave, Visalia. For information, visit www.linwoodmeadows.com.

March 13 – Lunch 'n' Learn – 12-1:30pm
The Professional Latin American Association will hold a presentation on "Building an Environment of Trust" as part of its Lunch 'n' Learn Leadership Development Series. The event is held at the KCAO Main Office, 1130 N. 11th Ave. Attendees receive a certificate of completion from the office of Assemblyman Rudy Salas and the Professional Latin American Association. To reserve a seat, email plaakings@yahoo.com or call 482-7515.

KIDS

March

March 6-27 – Ballet Folklorico – 5-6pm
The Visalia Parks and Recreation Department will offer instruction on Thursdays in dances from different regions of Mexico. Participants, ages 4-16 years, provide their own costumes and shoes for performances. For information, visit liveandplayvisalia.com.

March 7 – YA Book Club – 6pm
Tulare Public Library's newest club will focus on young adult books. All ages are welcome. The YA Book Club will meet the first Friday of each month in the Charter Room. The discussion will be Fallen by Lauren Kate. To register for book clubs or computer classes, call 685-4503 or stop by the Tulare Public Library's research and information desk.

March 7 – The Enchanted Reef – 7pm
Peña Planetarium will transport the audience to a tropical reef, a one-of-a-kind world: colorful and foreign, full of adventure and danger, riddles and mysteries, old legends and myths; a world inhabited by creatures that are humorous and courageous, lovable and bizarre, charming and dangerous. The Enchanted Reef is an exciting adventure for the whole family. The planetarium is located at 2500 Burrel Ave., Visalia. For information visit tcoe.org/planetarium.

March 7 – Wildest Weather in the Solar System – 8:15pm
Peña Plantetarium will have an evening presentation. The planetarium is located at 2500 W. Burrel Ave. (in the Educational Enrichment Center). Tickets are available at the planetarium office only between noon and 7pm on the day of the show. Tickets are $4 for adults and $3 for children under 12. For information, call 737-6334.

March 11, 12 & 19 – Yu-Gi-Oh!
Tulare Public Library hosts young adults, 10-19 to develop skills and play in a Yu-Gi-Oh! tournament on March 26. For information or to register, visit the Tulare Public Library.

March 21 – Secret of the Cardboard Rocket – 7pm
Peña Planetarium will have an evening presentation. The planetarium is located at 2500 W. Burrel Ave. (in the Educational Enrichment Center). Tickets are available at the planetarium office only between noon and 7pm on the day of the show. Tickets are $4 for adults and $3 for children under 12. For information, call 737-6334.

March 21 – Two Small Pieces of Glass: The Amazing Telescope – 8:15pm
Peña Planetarium will have an evening presentation. The planetarium is located at 2500 W. Burrel Ave. (in the Educational Enrichment Center). Tickets are available at the planetarium office only between noon and 7pm on the day of the show. Tickets are $4 for adults and $3 for children under 12. For information, call 737-6334.

COMMUNITY

March

March 6-8 & 11– Cards and Mediumship with Psychic Diane – 12-4pm
The Crystal Barn in Visalia hosts Psychic Diane Wilson on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays each week. The Crystal Barn is located at 1331 E. Noble Ave. For information, visit thecrystalbarn.com.

March 6 – Cancer is Dinner Talk – 5:30pm
Kaweah Delta Health Care District hosts this support group on the first Thursday each month at the Sequoia Regional Cancer Center. For information, call 624-3225.

March 6-8 – Visalia Gleaning Seniors Yard Sale – 8am-2pm
The Visalia Gleaning Seniors will host a yard sale at 28600 Road 156 in Visalia. Proceeds help provide food for 345 senior households in Visalia, Goshen, Farmersville and Exeter. For information, call 733-5352.

March 7-9 – Woodies in the Valley
The Central Valley Woodie Club - a Chapter of the National Woodie Club - has scheduled its 8th annual "Woodies in the Valley" event, featuring wooden-bodied cars that were only made from 1928-1951. Festivities begin Friday night with a welcome reception at the downtown Visalia A&W Drive-in. Saturday activities include a "show 'n shine" from 8:30am to 1:30pm at Redwood High School, an afternoon cruise and a group dinner. For information, visit valleywoodies.com.

March 7 – Central Valley Parkinson's Support Group – 10:30am
Central Valley Parkinson's Support Group will meet in the Pre-School Center of the Visalia United Methodist Church, 5200 W. Caldwell, Visalia. A video review of helpful activities will be shown and a discussion will be held. Lunch will follow with a baked potato bar, salad and dessert.

March 7 – Second Saturday Book Club – 11am
Tulare Public Library's Second Saturday Book Club meets in the Charter Room. The discussion will be about "I am the Messenger," by Mark Zusak. To register for book clubs or computer classes, call 685-4503 or stop by the Tulare Public Library's research and information desk.

March 7 – 55+ Rocks Monthly Speaker Series – 11:30am-12pm
The Visalia Senior Center presents "A Brush with Kindness - Habitat for Humanity Home Repair" as part of its continuing 55+ Rocks Monthly Speaker Series. The event is free, but reservations must be made in advance by calling 713-4481. Visalia Senior Center is located at 310 N. Locust.

March 7 – Hands-On Heroes Awards Nomination Deadline – 12pm
First 5 Tulare County is seeking nominations for its annual "Hands-On Heroes" awards, honoring those who have shown selfless and passionate support, through work or volunteer activities, of Tulare County's children ages 0 through 5. Forms are available at first5tc.org.

March 7 – YA Book Club – 6pm
Tulare Public Library's newest club will focus on young adult books. All ages are welcome. The YA Book Club will meet the first Friday of each month in the Charter Room. The discussion will be Anne Frank Diary of a Young Girl. To register for book clubs or computer classes call 685-4503 or stop by the Tulare Public Library's research and information desk.

March 8 – Saturday Vaccination and Microchip Clinic – 9-11am
The Valley Oak SPCA will hold a clinic at 2622 E. Main Street, Visalia. No appointment is required. Pets must be in carriers or on leashes. All puppies and kittens need vaccinations starting at 6 weeks for puppies and 8 weeks for kittens. All cats and dogs four months or older must be vaccinated for rabies. All adult dogs and cats need annual vaccinations to keep them healthy. In addition to the clinic, the Valley Oak SPCA will offer $10 off all spay and neuter surgeries through March 31 in honor of Spay Neuter Awareness Month. Call the clinic at 741-0492 to schedule a surgical appointment.

March 8 – Second Saturday Book Club – 11am
The Second Saturday Book Club of the Tulare Public Library will meet in the Charter Room. To register call 685-4503 or stop by the Tulare Public Library's research and information desk.

March 8 – Aura Photos and Reading – 12-2pm
Every Saturday, the Crystal Barn offers an aura photo and 10-minute reading. Cost is $15. Appointments are required and can be made by calling 732-8537.

March 8 – YoungLives of Tulare County Benefit Dinner & Silent Auction – 5:30-8pm
YoungLives, a ministry for teen parents in Tulare County, will host its 9th Annual benefit dinner and silent auction at Visalia Methodist Church, 5200 W. Caldwell Ave.

March 12 – Mended Hearts Support Group – 6:30pm
The Mended Hearts Support Group meets on the second Wednesday each month at the Sequoia Regional Cancer Center. For information, visit KaweahDelta.org.

March 13 – Visalia Philatelic Society Auction – 6:15pm
Visalia Philatelic Society will meet at the Fellowship Hall of Grace Lutheran Church, 1111 S. Conyer St. Doors open at 6:15pm for bidders to examine auction items. The meeting begins at 7pm with the auction starting at 7:30pm. A raffle is held during each auction. For information, call 686-5067 or 734-6353.

March 15 – Josie the Palm Reader - 12-3pm
On the first and third Saturdays of each month, The Crystal Barn in Visalia hosts Josie the Palm Reader. The Crystal Barn is located at 1331 E. Noble Ave. For information, visit thecrystalbarn.com.

March 16 – Mill Creek Witches Circle – 11:30am-1pm
On the first and third Sundays of each month, The Crystal Barn in Visalia hosts the Mill Creek Witches Circle, a gathering of local Wiccans and those who wish to learn more about the Wiccan practice. The Crystal Barn is located at 1331 E. Noble Ave. For information, visit thecrystalbarn.com.

March 17 – Loss of Spouse Support Group – 10:30am-12pm
The Loss of Spouse Support Group meets on the second and fourth Monday each month at Quail Park, 4520 W. Cypress Ave. For information, call 733-0642.

March 17 – Prostate Cancer Support Group – 5:30pm
Prostate Cancer Support Group meets on the third Monday of each month at the Hanford Radiation Center, 1443 W. 7th St. For information, call 707-1322.

See more events online
ourvalleyvoice.com

Kenny Rogers

Continued from p. 17

Music Association awards. Remaining a popular entertainer around the world, Rogers, voted the "Favorite Singer of All-Time" in a 1986 joint poll by readers of both USA Today and People, still loves touring and recording new music.

For over five decades, the singer, songwriter, musician, producer, actor, photographer and entertainer has delivered memorable songs, drawing fans from many different backgrounds. "I really, really love what I'm doing," Rogers says. "People survive longer if they love what they're doing. Because you just don't quit."

Rogers is one of very few artists who have enjoyed successful careers in such a variety of genres - jazz, folk, rock, country and pop. Houston-born Rogers formed his first band while in high school in 1956 – a rockabilly group called The Scholars (they performed on "American Bandstand") – and has never quit making music. He played stand-up bass in the jazz group the Bobby Doyle Trio, and later became a member of the popular folk group, The New Christy Minstrels.

The spotlight started focusing on Rogers when his group, The First Edition, scored their first hit, "I Just Dropped In (To See What Condition My Condition Was In)," which was followed by the pop and country chart success of "Ruby, Don't Take Your Love to Town."

As a solo artist, Rogers' first #1 hit, "Lucille," was named the CMA's Single of the Year and was certified gold. "Daytime Friends," "Sweet Music Man" and "Love or Something Like It" continued his run of success. Then came "The Gambler," a story song so vivid it not only delighted country and pop fans, it also became a TV movie, starring Rogers himself in the title role. The movie spawned four follow-ups, making it the longest running miniseries franchise on television. The five Gambler mini-series have attracted over 100 million viewers nationwide and launched a second career for Rogers as an actor on television and movies.

"I've never considered myself a great singer, but I am a great storyteller," Rogers told Billboard magazine, also noting that he feels his strength as an artist is in finding great songs. In the 1980s, Rogers' romantic country hits "Through The Years," "She Believes in Me," "You Decorated My Life," and "Lady" – the biggest song of his career – quickly became classics.

"There are a lot of songs that may have initial success but don't linger the period of time those songs have," Rogers says. "They do take a different value in your heart when they have that kind of staying power that represents your success and represents a feeling and a thought. A song like that becomes a part of your soul."

In 1999, after forming his own record company, Dreamcatcher Entertainment, Rogers returned to the charts in a big way with the hit, "The Greatest," and when the follow-up, "Buy Me a Rose," hit #1 in 2000, Rogers, at age 61, became the oldest artist in chart history to have a #1 solo record in any format, proving his talent was just as vibrant and meaningful as it was when he first started out. That same year, the Recording Industry Association of America awarded him the prestigious Diamond Award celebrating sales of more than 10 million albums for his Greatest Hits album (sales to date have exceeded 24 million).

With his unique storytelling ability and soulful voice, Rogers has continued his success into the 21st century with a critically acclaimed album (Water and Bridges) and hit single, "I Can't Unlove You," a gold certified record (21 Number Ones), and now, the sweetly timeless The Love of God.

Tickets are $85, $75, $65 and $55, are available at foxhanford.com or 584-7823.

Hatch, Stowe to be Inducted into PC Athletic Hall of Fame

The Porterville College Foundation will induct Dennis Stowe and Jennie Hatch into the PC Athletic Alumni Hall of Fame at the fourth annual Porterville College Foundation Hall of Fame Induction Banquet on March 8 at the River Island Country Club.

Dennis Stowe

The event's featured speaker will be former Pittsburgh Steelers safety Lupe Sanchez. This year's "Distinguished Alumni" inductee is attorney Richard Christenson, a past president of the Tulare County Bar Association and currently chairman of the Fee Arbitration Committee.

Stowe was a member of the 1978 Pirate team, the first Porterville College basketball team to qualify for the California Community College State Tournament. He was selected to the All-Central Conference second team his freshman year and first team as a sophomore. In baseball, he was a two-time Conference All-Star Game selection and played on the first Porterville College team to ever win 20 games in a single season. He received All-Conference Honorable Mention his freshman year.

Stowe received a full athletic scholarship to the University of Nevada, Reno in track. Realizing his passion was baseball, he transferred to the California State University, Sacramento, to continue playing baseball and basketball. He played baseball for the Oakland A's organization in Medford, Oregon. Later in his career, he played winter league and reported to spring training for the Oakland A's Manager Billy Martin.

Jennie Hatch

Hatch's came to Porterville College in 2006 where she was named to the Academic All-American team both her freshman and sophomore year. While at PC she was also chosen as Most Improved Player in 2007, second team All-CVC Utility in 2007, first team All-CVC Pitcher in 2008, and Most Valuable Player in 2008.

Hatch received a scholarship to play at Alcorn State University where she earned her B.S. in Nutrition/Dietetics. Her team won their conference her senior year and she pitched against Alabama, the top team in the country, in the regionals. She was selected as second team SWAC Pitcher in 2009, first team SWAC Pitcher in 2010, SWAC All-Academic team 2009-2010, SWAC Champion in 2010, NCAA Regional Tournament Participant in 2010, and SWAC All-Tournament team in 2010. After graduating, she played for the Zurich Barracudas Softball Club in Zurich, Switzerland, in 2011.

Social hour is at 5:30pm and dinner will be served at 6:30pm. Tickets are $50, $275 for a table of six, and $350 for a table of eight. Seating is limited. For tickets, call 791-2319 or 784-5300.

ART

March

March 6 & 13 – Mosaic Class at Clay Café – 6pm
A two-night project, March 6 and 13, will teach the technique of mosaic on a wine bottle or vase. Bring your own, or buy one for $2. Cost of the class is $35. Reservations necessary: 733-2022. A $10 deposit is required. Clay Café is located at 225 E. Main St. # B, Visalia. For information, visit claycafevisalia.com.

Through March 22 – Fiber-Fabric Thread
The Kings Art Center's Fiber-Fabric-Thread exhibit will continue through March 22. Works by members of the Common Threads Quilt Guild will be featured at 605 N. Douty St., Hanford. The center is open Wednesday through Friday, 11am-4pm and Saturday and Sunday from noon to 3pm. For information, visit kingsartcenter.org.

Through March 29 – Sierra Wonders: Treasures in Our Backyard
Arts Visalia presents the works of Jeri Burzin, Elsah Cort, Ginny Wilson and others. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Saturday from 12-5:30pm. Arts Visalia is located at 214 E. Oak Ave. For more information, visit artsvisalia.org.

Through March 29 – Annual Student Art Show
The Tulare Historical Museum presents its Annual Student Art Show through March 29. For information, visit tularehistoricalmuseum.org.

Through April 2 – Deb Nolan Photography Exhibition at Suncrest Bank
Suncrest Bank will present this exhibit at its branch at 400 W. Center Ave., Visalia.

Through April 26 – Tulare Business Pride Mini Exhibit
The Tulare Historical Society and Museum will host a mini-exhibit in its audio-visual room through April 26. Tulare Business Pride showcases a selection of business memorabilia from some of Tulare's finest businesses. The museum, at 444 W. Tulare Avenue, is open from 10am-4pm, Thursday through Saturdays. Admission is $5 for adults. Student and senior discounts available. For information, visit tularehistoricalmuseum.org.

Through April 30 – Lynn Ramires Exhibit at Michael's Jewelry
Michael's Jewelry on Main Street in Visalia will exhibit the artwork of Lynn Ramires through April 30. A reception will be held on March 7.

March 7 – Sue Sa Clubhouse Exhibit
Sue Sa Clubhouse will present an exhibit featuring the paintings of Joy Collier.

THEATER

March

March 7-8, 14-16, 21-23, 28-30 – Hartburn Hotel
The Kings Players present an old-fashioned melodrama with a surprise ending that will leave you in stitches at The Temple Theatre, 514 E. Visalia St. in Hanford. The Friday and Saturday performances begin at 7:30pm and Sundays have a matinee showing at 2pm. For reservations, call 584-7241.

March 14-16, 21-23, 28-30 – Little Shop of Horrors
"Little Shop of Horrors" runs for three weekends at the Ice House Theater at Race and Santa Fe in Visalia. Evening performances are at 7:30pm on March 14, 15, 21, 22, 28 and 29, and matinees are at 2pm on March 16, 23 and 30. To purchase tickets, visit www.visaliaplayers.org or the Visalia Community Players Facebook page, or call 734-3900.

March 19 – Free Horror Movie & Trivia Night – 7pm
Join other local horror fans for a free movie and horror trivia, a selection of craft beers, and food specials including all-you-can-eat pizza and soda for $10. The Central Valley Horror Club will be showing "Friday the 13th Part VIII: Jason Takes Manhattan." Prizes and movie tickets awarded in the trivia game before the movie. The event will be at The Planing Mill Artisan Pizzeria, 514 E. Main St., Visalia. All ages welcome. Trivia begins at 7pm; movie begins at 8pm. For information, visit facebook.com/centralvalleyhorrorclub.

March 20 – 20 Feet From Stardom – 7:30pm
The March screening of the Fox Independent Film Series is "20 Feet from Stardom" at Visalia Fox Theatre. The movie tells the story of backup singers for the biggest bands in popular music. The 2013 documentary won the Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature. Tickets are $7 general and $5 for students, seniors and military at the door. For information, visit foxvisalia.org.

March 22 – Ralphie May – 8-11pm
Perico Productions presents Comedian Ralphie May at the Visalia Fox Theatre. Ralphie's popularity explored from the success on NBC's show "Last Comic Standing." He has since performed on "The Late Late Show," "Jimmy Kimmel Live" and "The Tonight Show." Tickets are $16-$26. Tickets and information at foxvisalia.org

See more events online ourvalleyvoice.com

Autistic Protagonist Seeks Love in 'The Rosie Project'

HANNAH GREEN

Don Tillman is an exacting and highly intelligent genetics professor who decides that he would like to find a wife. The main deterrent in his quest also happens to be his greatest charm: Don is awkward, uncomfortable with social conventions, and unable to navigate many interactions with finesse. Right off the bat, the reader falls in love with Don's offbeat and insightful worldview, while we watch him look to fall in love himself.

Graeme Simsion, author of *The Rosie Project*, writes with warm wit and comedic compassion. Simsion is also transparent in his intentions. Don clearly exhibits behaviors that fit the criteria for autism spectrum disorder, according to both common perceptions of the disorder and the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM), the veritable bible of psychology. In the first few pages of the novel, Don voices that he believes those on the spectrum are inappropriately medicalized because their behaviors do not fit constructed social norms. Simsion uses the rest of his novel to make this case.

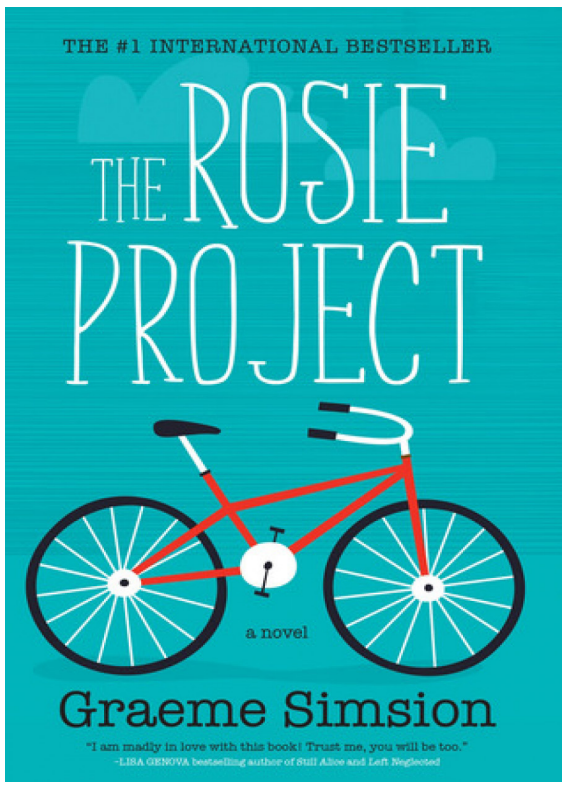
Author Graeme Simsion

The comedic premise of this novel lies in our protagonist's difficulties in understanding social norms. However, his differences can be quite advantageous at times: he is rational, honest and straightforward, which are useful attributes both in academia and with friends. He has a remarkable memory, and his attention to scientific and mechanical detail makes him an exceptional professor and researcher. In fact, Don's life seems both enjoyable and fulfilling; the only change Don would like to make is adding a wife who is so logical and methodical as he. In this, Simsion brings to light a facet of living on the spectrum that many may not have considered before. It's a misconception that those who have autism do not seek romantic connections and long-term relationships. It's also easy for those who entertain this misconception to imagine that these supposed unattached lives are somehow less rewarding because of this. However, Don shows us that we cannot project our own ideas of fulfillment onto others' lives.

Those who have built different lives are not to be pitied or judged. Don has few friends, but he enjoys his solitude, choosing how to spend his own time, and working within professional and personal systems that function best for him. He also does choose to seek love, though in a humorous and distinctive way. In this, Simsion argues that those with autism do not need to be medicalized because there's nothing amiss about simple variations in human functioning, and that these differences simply reflect a larger range of social functioning than many constructed social norms allow.

It's difficult to write characters who are different from many readers, especially characters who have real-life disorders. The author needs to make specific characteristics associated with the disorder clear, and the difficulties that arise due to them, but not create a stereotype. It's likely most readers aren't familiar with the medical criterion for autism spectrum disorder, so it's important while reading *The Rosie Project* to remember that although many of Don's traits are possible in someone on the spectrum, by no means does everyone on the spectrum embody each of these, and those who are not on the spectrum can share some of these tendencies as well. In short, these traits may be commonalities among certain people with autism – but in no way can they be ascribed to every person on the spectrum. Simsion avoids this potential pitfall by crafting Don as such a literary character that he reads purely as an imagined role, fit snugly into a fiction novel, so that it would be difficult for the reader to project Don's personality onto actual acquaintances or friends.

However well Simsion has crafted Don, the author's handling can feel clumsy at times. Don's lack of self-awareness – he never seems to suspect that he may fall on the autism spectrum himself, although he discusses it in great length with other characters and even gives a lecture on the topic – seems unreasonable after 40 years of limited and difficult social interactions. Simsion also works hard to make Don's likely diagnosis clear with a series of characteristics and behaviors that are typical of someone on the spectrum; however, Simsion includes so many of these signs that it feels at times as if he is working off a list, lacking either subtlety or trust in his readers to pick up on this important characteristic without spoon-feeding.



Another clumsy move Simsion makes is in his terminology. It's true that the layperson is unlikely to catch this discrepancy. As someone with a degree in psychology, however, I would feel remiss to gloss over this misstep, although I do recognize its nitpicky quality. Simsion refers to Asperger's Syndrome as the disorder that Don examines and likely has. The DSM V, the latest installment of the DSM, removed Asperger's from their list of disorders in May of 2013. Instead of categorizing Asperger's as a higher-functioning and separate form of autism, the DSM chose to integrate the two into one spectrum, called the autism spectrum. Throughout *Rosie*, Simsion refers to Asperger's as a separate disorder, even though *Rosie* was published five months after the new categorization in the DSM. This categorization has been controversial for many reasons, and although those previously diagnosed with Asperger's will retain their original diagnosis, the novel would do better, given its abundance of discourse on the topic, to address these issues instead of printing factually out-of-date information. Simsion's argument revolves entirely around those living on the autism spectrum, and he would have done well to have used the contemporary language for this topic. His terminology is incorrect, but Simsion's argument is nevertheless intact.

The only decisively unfortunate aspect of this novel is the ending. Up to this point the novel is a true romantic comedy: the focus is on humor with the romantic lead as merely a catalyst. The ending flips that modus operandi upside-down, turning the novel into a comedic romance. The last several pages emphasize not the soft bite of the earlier humor but a nearly saccharine romance. Yes, in a lighthearted novel, we should expect neatly wrapped details and for the guy to get the girl. But in a novel this witty, we should expect and receive an ending that is more realistic than sappy, more funny than cloying, and more truly romantic than sentimental. Don's newly gained self-awareness is pleasurable and seemingly natural, but when it comes to

the summation, Simsion should have stuck with comedy. The last few pages detract from the charm that supported the whole of the novel, and without that charm, the last chapter falls flat.

Overall, Simsion navigates potentially tricky terrain with kindness and tact. Don's social awkwardness does contribute to many moments of hilarity, but Simsion doesn't make fun of his characters. At no point is the reader asked to laugh at Don instead of with Don. Simsion's truly convincing argument is one of acceptance. Although the question of how autism is medicalized won't be answered definitively in a novel, what we can all agree on is that it's important to respond to Don and others like him with the same love, compassion, and patience that we would like to have from others. Don Tillman certainly would show this respect and kindness to any one of us.

NEXT DEADLINE:
THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2014

Eberle Wine Dinner with Gary Eberle
Thursday, March 20th
6:30 pm - $95 inclusive
The Southern Pacific Depot Restaurant
207 East Oak Avenue, Visalia
www.depotvisalia.com • 732-8611
Reserve at www.depotvisalia.com.

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Alvarez Photography Studio
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Visalia, CA
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/ALVAREZPHOTOGRAPHYSTUDIO

Everybody's Irish in Downtown Hanford

Main Street Hanford will present its third annual St. Patrick's Celebration on Saturday, March 15, from 5-8pm in downtown Hanford. This popular event will include a microbrew tasting at 18 downtown businesses, Irish music, plenty of food, shopping and fun.

Ticket holders will be able to taste Firestone Walker Brewing Company Walker's Reserve, Barrel House Brewery Poorman's and Ballast Point Sculpin IPA, along with a variety of other ales, pilsners and stouts.

Tickets are $20 in advance, $25 on the day of the event. Prices include a commemorative tasting mini-pilsner, 10 tasting tickets and a map showcasing downtown tasting locations with a description of each beer to be served at the various locations. Only 750 tickets will be sold for this event.

Tickets are available at Main Street Hanford, Lush Fine Wines, Fatte Albert's Pizza Co., Candice & Company and Pro Travel Hanford. For more information, call 582-9457 or email shelly@mainstreethanford.com.

Golf Tournament to Benefit Leadership Visalia

The Sixth Annual Visalia Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament to benefit Leadership Visalia will be held at Valley Oaks Golf Course on Friday, March 21.

Leadership Visalia is the chamber's business leadership development course, designed to benefit participants as well as the community. Leadership Visalia was started in 1986.

The four-person scramble begins with a 12:01pm shotgun start. The $125 golfer fee includes practice balls, cart and green fees. A VIP upgrade package is available.

Lunch will be provided, and there will be prizes for first, second and third place finishers.

Registration begins at 10:30am. For more information, call 734-5876. For more information about Leadership Visalia, visit www.visaliachamber.org/pages/LeadershipVisalia1.

Pals of the Grove to Host Rummage Sale

Pals of the Grove (POG) will host a rummage sale at 700 S. Bridge in Visalia on March 8, from 8am to dusk. Rummage sale items are needed, as well as volunteers to assist the day of the event.

Sissy's BBQ and More will be on site, from 10am to 6pm, preparing and selling various barbecue dishes. To order in advance, call 300-7552.

POG is a new volunteer group in the community that will be dedicated to assisting Mooney Grove Park supervisors with park improvements through grassroots fundraising efforts, raising community awareness and donations.

To arrange to drop off rummage sale donations, call 733-1209. For more information about the group, visit the Pals of the Grove Facebook page, or call 329-4590 or 736-4679.

The work of Anees Akhund will be on display through April 25.

Jon Ginsburg Gallery to Present Anees Akhund Exhibition

The Jon Ginsburg Gallery at the Creative Center will present an exhibition of work by its artist of the month, Anees Akhund, whose unique style was inspired by the works of Picasso, Pollack and Monet.

Despite his busy life – which includes a career in financial services, community involvement with several organizations and maintaining a physically active lifestyle – Akhund finds the time to create beautiful, vibrant works of art. An early riser, he tries to paint every morning before going to the office. "When I stay active, my art reflects that movement and the vibrancy it creates," he explained.

An artist's reception will be held on Friday, March 7, from 6-8pm at the Jon Ginsburg Gallery, 410 E. Race, Visalia. The show will run from though April 25. Gallery hours are 9am to 2pm Monday through Friday.

Symphony

Continued from p. 17

television screens. One shows the film, and right next to it there is another screen with a clock running. I watch that clock closely to make sure that things continue to time out correctly. I'm not really 'watching' the movie at all."

The musicians are below and behind the screen, but have an idea of how much time is between each cue. It's written in their parts, which might say "30 seconds" before the next cue, or perhaps as long as four or five minutes.

The concert begins at 7:30pm at the Visalia Fox Theatre. The audience is invited to come at 6:45 to hear Kiesling give behind-the-scenes information before the concert. Tickets are $30 to $39.50 at the symphony office, 208 W. Main St., Suite D, Visalia (downstairs in Montgomery Square). Student prices are $10. Tickets are also available at 732-8600 or www.tularecountysymphony.com.

The season brochure for 2014-15 is now available. To get a copy, visit the symphony office.

Sierra Wonders

Continued from p. 17

Castillo, Robert Chaponot, Elsah Cort, Rubia Delbosco van Roodselaar, Séamus Ó Dubsláine, Jim Entz, Frank Gabler, Carolyn Hartling, Nancy Jonnum, Shirley Keller, Cathy McCrery-Cordle, Dan McLean, Ellen Milinch, Matthew Rangel, Marn Reich, Mona Fox Selph, Cynthia Siegel, LaVone Sterling and Virginia Wilson.

The book was the brainchild of Karen Kimball and the late Nancy Jonnum, both long-time fixtures of the Three Rivers arts community. It serves as a testament to the natural beauty of the Sierra Nevadas, but also serves another purpose as a fundraising vehicle for the Arts Alliance's Jonnum-Young Scholarship Fund, providing support to young people pursuing higher studies in the arts.

The project is presented now in a full exhibition format at Arts Visalia in the hope of shining a light on the talented individuals involved as well as to generate local awareness of the project and the worthy cause of supporting young artists in their pursuit of careers in the arts.

"Sierra Wonders: Treasures in Our Backyard" will be on display at Arts Visalia through March 28, with an opening reception to be held on Friday, March 7, from 6-8pm. Attendance is free and open to the public. Arts Visalia is located at 214 E. Oak Ave. in downtown Visalia. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Saturday from noon to 5:30pm.

ON SALE NOW!
THE PERFECT GIFT!

Coming to the Hanford Fox

Kenny Rogers

Thursday,
March 13, 2014

8:00 PM

$85, $75, $65, $55

Kenny Rogers will perform at the historic Hanford Fox Theatre.
To purchase tickets online: www.foxhanford.com - or call (559) 584-7823.

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